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January 24, 2024

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Maldives rules out research by Chinese vessel in its waters

Island nation's Foreign Ministry says *Xiang Yang Hong 03* will arrive for rotation of personnel, replenishment following a Chinese govt. request

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

PHOTO: TIO.ORG

Chinese research vessel *Xiang Yang Hong 03* will not be carrying out research in Maldivian waters, but will arrive for a port call, the Government of Maldives said on Tuesday.

Reports of the Chinese vessel heading to the Maldives have drawn considerable attention in India, especially in the wake of Sri Lanka announcing a one-year moratorium on foreign research vessels calling at the island's ports, after India voiced concern over visits by a Chinese vessel.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said a diplomatic request was made by the Government of China to the Government of Maldives for "necessary clearances to make a port call, for rotation of personnel and replenishment".

"The vessel would not be conducting any research while in the Maldivian waters," the Ministry said in a statement, which Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer shared on social media platform X. The Ministry said the Maldives "has always been a welcoming destination for vessels of friendly countries" and continues to host both civilian and military vessels making port calls for peaceful purposes.

"Such port calls not only enhance bilateral ties between the Maldives and its partner countries, but also demonstrate the centuries old tradition of the Maldivian people welcoming vessels from friendly countries," it said, adding that authorities would "uphold" international best practices and relevant international maritime law.

Earlier, Indian authorities acknowledged the development but did not comment on it.

The arrival of *Xiang Yang Hong 03*, which marine traffic portals describe as a research or survey vessel, is expected early next month.

The vessel had earlier called at Sri Lankan ports, but did not obtain clearance for a visit early this year, according to Colombo-based media reports. Around the same time, Sri Lanka announced the one-year moratorium.

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'FIVE PILLARS OF JUSTICE'
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Rahul Gandhi waves to his supporters in Guwahati on Tuesday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Assam Police book Rahul for 'violence' during yatra

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam Police on Tuesday booked Rahul Gandhi for "wanton acts of violence" as the political confrontation between the Congress leader and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma escalated on the 10th day of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, with Mr. Gandhi asserting that he does not get "intimidated" by such tactics.

"With reference to wanton acts of violence, provocation, damage to public property and assault on police personnel today by Congress members, an FIR has been registered against Rahul Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal, Kanhaiya Kumar and other individuals...," the Chief Minister posted on X.

Kheda flogging is a case of 'police atrocity': top court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday orally observed that the 2022 incident of four Gujarat Police officers publicly flogging Muslim men after tying them to a pole for allegedly disrupting a garba event in Kheda district amounted to an "atrocity".

"Did they have an authority in law to tie people to a pole and beat them," Justice B.R. Gavai asked. "And take videos," Justice Sandeep Mehta joined in.

The police officers had appealed to the Supreme Court against a Gujarat High Court order in October sentencing them to 14 days' imprisonment for contempt of court.

D.K. Basu judgment
The conduct of the four officers were found to be in contempt of the directions of the Supreme Court in the *D.K. Basu* judgment of 1996 against police abuse and custodial violence. The *D.K. Basu* verdict had highlighted the deep concern in a free society for the protection of an individual from torture and abuse by the police and other law-enforcing officers.

> It is the duty of every police officer to know what is the law laid down in D.K. Basu [judgment]
> JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI

"Police is, no doubt, under a legal duty and has legitimate right to arrest a criminal and to interrogate him during the investigation of an offence but it must be remembered that the law does not permit use of third degree methods or torture of accused in custody during interrogation and investigation with that view to solve the crime," the judgment had observed.

Justices Gavai and Mehta were not impressed by the argument raised by senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for the police officers, that there was no "willful disobedience" of the verdict by his clients.

The Bench asked whether ignorance of law had become a defence in law now. "It is the duty of every police officer to know what is the law laid down in D.K. Basu [judgment]," Justice Gavai observed.

The senior lawyer challenged the jurisdiction of the High Court to try the men for contempt.

The Bench admitted the statutory appeal of the police officers, A.V. Parmar, D.B. Kumavat, Laxmansinh Kanaksinh Dabhi and Rajubhai Dabhi, and stayed the contempt action against them in the High Court.

NEARBY

Govt. to relieve retired officers

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, has asked all departments to relieve retired officials appointed as consultants and advisers with immediate effect. » PAGE 8

80,000 homes get PNG supply through GAIL

BENGALURU
GAIL Gas has laid around 2,000 km of pipeline in Bengaluru. While 2.5 lakh households have been connected with the pipeline, only 80,000 households have been availing supply of PNG. A total of 4 lakh residents registered. » PAGE 4

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

Tension over desecration of Ambedkar statue

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Spontaneous protests hit Kalaburagi on Tuesday as the news of defilement of B.R. Ambedkar's statue spread quickly early in the morning and continued through the day. However, the situation was brought under control by evening.

Led by different factions of Dalit organisations and progressive outfits, hundreds of people took to the streets condemning the dishonour to the architect of the Constitution at Lumbini Gardens in Kotnoor (D) village on the outskirts of the city late on Monday.

Just as the villagers discovered on Tuesday morning that miscreants had defiled the statue with a garland of footwear, spontaneous protests by residents and local people started in the area.

Two were taken into custody for interrogation.

State govt. amends rules to make SSLC and II PU annual exams more 'student friendly'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to make the three annual examinations for class 10 (SSLC) and class 12 (II PUC) student friendly by amending some rules.

According to the new regulations, students must register for the first annual exam compulsorily and can appear for all three exams. A system of "improvement of marks" has been introduced and the system of rejection of marks has been abandoned.

The government has introduced the three annual examination system this year for SSLC and II PU students. Earlier, it was mandatory for regular and private students to appear for the annual exam-1 in all subjects and they could not appear for exam-2 and exam-3 directly. However, these rules have been relaxed now. Regular and private students must register for the annual exam-1 and they have the option to appear for the annual exam-2 and exam-3 without writing all the subjects in the annual exam-1. However, students cannot appear for annual exam-2 and exam-3 directly without writing the first one.

Earlier, if the candidate rejected the marks obtained in the annual exam-1 and appeared for exam-2, the marks of exam-2 would be considered. This was considered to be unfair to students. For example, if a student who secured 50 marks in a subject in the first annual exam and secured 25 marks in the exam-2, the candidate would be considered as 'failed'. Such rules have been amended now and the government has decided to implement the system of "improvement of marks". Under this, even if students write the same subjects in the three exams, the marks from the best of the three will be retained while issuing the final marks card.

Traffic plan for ORR changes daily based on data

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The Outer Ring Road (ORR), which houses 43 tech parks, is known more for its notorious traffic than for being a tech corridor. The hybrid mode of working most tech companies have resorted to after the pandemic has also made traffic volumes on the ORR unpredictable.

To navigate this, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have started deciding on a traffic plan for ORR every evening based on data collected from tech parks and ride-share applications.

Every day, by 2 p.m., the BTP crowdsources data of the number of vehicles in the tech parks, which gives the traffic personnel a "fair idea" of the traffic volume in the evening peak hours. Of the 43 tech parks, 33 share this data by 2 p.m. every day. Others are not yet on board, sources said. It provides the number of vehicles that have entered the tech parks since morning and the number of vehicles that exited that day and the difference gives the volume of output that evening.

Every day, by 2 p.m., the BTP crowdsources data on the number of vehicles in the tech parks. K. MURALI KUMAR

Vehicle data

Total entry count from tech parks:	**1,44,434**
Total exits from tech parks:	**48,607**
Vehicles within tech parks:	**95,827**

Data for January 23, 2024, at 1.30 p.m. from 33 tech parks

For Tuesday, the output for the evening peak hour was 95,827 from 33 tech parks. "This is not the entire traffic, but a fair representation of the traffic volume. From experience, we have learned that the total traffic volume on ORR is around 2.5 times the output from these 33 tech parks. We have also learned that there is a need for intervention when this data we get from tech parks shows the output in the evening is over 1.3 lakh vehicles," said M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru. "Last week, the expected traffic volume out of the 33 tech parks was around 1.49 lakh, prompting us to instruct tech parks to go for staggered exits. Any day, when we expect high traffic volumes, we restrict the movement of heavy vehicles, divert them, or delay their entry into the ORR corridor. In severe cases, staggered exits is an option," Mr. Anucheth said. Given that companies are now mandating employees to come to office at least two days a week and these two days differ across companies and teams, there was no pattern the BTP could decipher earlier. However, now with this initiative, the BTP sources said on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the traffic output from tech parks is around 1 lakh to 1.2 Lakh, while it is around 90,000 on Monday and Friday.

The initiative came after when ORR almost came to a halt on a day when international stand-up comic Trevor Noah was scheduled to perform at a venue on ORR. "Ever since we started this collaboration, such gridlocks have not happened. All tech parks hand over the data manually every day. In the future, we plan to automate this using Artificial Intelligence," said Ramesh V.T., general secretary, Outer Ring Road Companies Association.

As a kid, I was always stubborn about wanting to play cricket: Dhruv Jurel

He is one of three wicketkeepers in the India squad, and former India gloveman Ratra believes he may have to wait for his India cap, but the call-up proves that he is very much in the scheme of things going forward

P.K. Ajith Kumar

K.S. Bharat and Dhruv Jurel during a practice session ahead of the first Test Hyderabad. PTI

There is pride in Ajay Ratra's voice as he speaks, over phone, about Dhruv Jurel's selection to the India squad for the first two Tests against England.

The former India wicketkeeper, one recalls, had talked of the youngster back in 2019, at Jaipur, where he had been conducting a BCCI camp for India's young wicketkeepers. On that warm June evening at the restaurant of the RCA Cricket Academy, during a lengthy interview with *The Hindu*, he spoke, among other things, of the three wicketkeepers he shortlisted from around the country.

One of them was Jurel. "He is slightly taller," Ratra said then. "He has good reflexes and good reach."

Jurel is living up to the coach's expectations. He is glad that his assessment has proved true.

Hungry for success

"Dhruv has shown a lot of improvement over the years," Ratra says. "I have worked with him as the coach of Uttar Pradesh and then in South Africa as well. He is hungry for success, works hard on his fitness."

Jurel has worked on his batting too, adds Ratra. "I have made him open for UP," he says. "The IPL stint has also helped him as a batter. He is solid but can also improvise in T20s."

And he was pretty successful with his improvisation, as he made some eye-catching cameos for Rajasthan Royals in his maiden IPL season last year. His 152 runs came at a strike-rate of 172.72.

He is one of three wicketkeepers in the India squad, and Ratra believes he may have to wait for his India cap, but the call-up proves that he is very much in the scheme of things going forward for Indian cricket. He turned 23 on Sunday and can afford to wait.

Jurel, who has 790 runs from 15 First Class matches at an average of 46.47 and a highest score of 249, has been doing well for India-A over the last few weeks, having notched up fifties, against South Africa-A and England Lions.

But like many people, he too was surprised when he was named in the squad against England. And among those people was his father.

"I was with the India-A team, we were playing against the England Lions in a two-day match," Jurel told Rajasthan Royals' website. "The news broke late in the night and when I found out, I immediately called up my father to tell him and his first question was, 'Which Indian team? Aren't you already playing for one of them?'. I said, "The same one in which Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma play". He couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe it either!"

Jurel has joined his India Under-19 and Royals teammate Yashasvi Jaiswal at Hyderabad, where the first Test begins on January 25. "Yashasvi and I go a long way back," he said. "We played together in our Under-19 days and it has always been a lot of fun. I am looking forward to sharing this experience with him too. He was one of the first ones to text and congratulate me, saying, "Well-deserved *bhai*, very happy for you'".

Not an easy journey

The journey hasn't been easy for Jurel. "As a kid, I was always stubborn about wanting to play cricket," he said. "Studies were important but deep down I knew I wanted to pursue the sport."

It took him a while to convince his parents, though. "Then my father stepped up to help me," he said. "I studied in an Army school and during winters, the days would be even shorter in northern India. So instead of going home after school and changing into my cricket clothes, my father would bring the clothes to the school and I would change them in the washroom, then rush to the academy to play, and finally be back home by night. That way, I would get two extra hours to practise and they used to be extremely helpful for me."

There were financial constraints as well. "My family always supported me and I am eternally grateful for that," he said. "My father would stitch up torn batting gloves, get a hanging ball in the room for me to keep hitting, my mother would soak almonds for me so that I'd get all the energy I needed. Everyone in my family is a cricket fan so they got behind me whole-heartedly, even if it took some time and convincing."

Jurel feels playing for the India Under-19 team helped him greatly in his development as a cricketer. "As part of India Under-19, I gained massive exposure playing in foreign conditions and different types of pitches," he said.

"Then with the Royals, I had a good first IPL season. And that was all white-ball cricket. But then came the longer format, and that's a different ball game altogether. It took me a while to adapt myself to the demands of red-ball cricket. But with so much practice, training and early experience, I am confident that I can play all three formats equally well."

That self-confidence is already showing.

THE GIST

- Jurel made some eye-catching cameos for Rajasthan Royals in his maiden IPL season last year. His 152 runs came at a strike-rate of 172.72
- He feels playing for the India Under-19 team helped him greatly in his development as a cricketer
- Like many people, he too was surprised when he was named in the squad against England

Organisers relieved as Sinner avoids late late show, but the scheduling nightmare at the Australian Open continues

Reuters
MELBOURNE

REUTERS

Australian Open organisers were breathing a sigh of relief as Tuesday's schedule concluded at the relatively 'early' time of just before 1.30 a.m. but scheduling issues were again on the agenda for the year's first Grand Slam.

Coco Gauff's clash with Marta Kostyuk ran for over three hours, meaning Novak Djokovic and Taylor Fritz did not even get onto Rod Laver Arena until almost 5 p.m. local time – much later than they would have expected.

The Serbian top seed and his American opponent battled for close to four hours, meaning the evening session opener between Aryna Sabalenka and Barbora Krejcikova began two hours late at 9 p.m.

The fact that Sabalenka won in 71 minutes at least enabled men's fourth seed Jannik Sinner and fifth seed Andrey Rublev to start their duel at 10.30 p.m.

Sinner prevailed in straight sets so a repeat of last week's late show when Daniil Medvedev came from two sets down to beat Emil Ruusuvuori in a match that finished at 3.40 a.m. was avoided.

With Djokovic and Fritz locked in battle, Sabalenka said she and her opponent had been given the choice to move their match to the Margaret Court Arena, rather than Rod Laver.

"But we just decided to see how the Djokovic-Fritz match will go. If it's going to be too long, then we agreed for the possibility to be moved," the defending champion said.

"Novak won the third and fourth sets, so we just went on court as normal."

The 25-year-old said it was important for a quarterfinal to be held on the main showcourt.

"Of course it would be much better to start at 7 p.m. but you can't control other matches," Sabalenka added.

"I just tried to focus on myself and wait a bit longer. It's not that bad... It is how it is and we have to adapt quickly to the conditions. We did it well."

Djokovic said it was "not ideal" for Sinner and Rublev to go onto the court as late as they did but did not agree that he would have any sort of advantage for his clash with Sinner on Friday.

"We've seen in the past some late finishes. I know for the crowds and the tournament in a way it's kind of exciting to see a 4 a.m. finish, a 3 a.m. finish," Djokovic said.

"I was part of some of those. But it's definitely not fun for us. The good thing about the quarterfinalists on the men's (top) section (of the draw) is we have two days (off).

"So that's plenty of time to get a good sleep and recover."

It is a complicated procedure to keep fans, players and broadcasters happy and Djokovic said there is no easy fix for the scheduling issues that impact the Australian Open, French Open and U.S. Open, where tickets are sold separately for day and evening sessions.

"Maybe scheduling less matches on the centre court, doing it in one session, which is most likely not going to happen because every session carries a lot of economical value for them," the Serb added.

"So of course they're going to communicate it and try it that way, try to get as many people for different sessions.

"You know, TV broadcasting channels have the biggest power. We know that. Which is not unusual because they are the ones that are giving us the stage, the platform to reach out to millions of people around the world, which is great for us."

Sinner admitted that at one stage on Tuesday he did not know where his match was going to be played.

"But it's a huge pleasure to play quarters in a Grand Slam so doesn't really matter the court," he said. "Obviously when you play centre court it's more of a privilege because you can feel it, you know, with the walk-on and everything.

"In my mind I knew if I win I have two days off, which even if you potentially finish very late, you can recover. But in this moment, you don't watch the clock."

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How physicists are making sense of the mystery of pulsar glitches

In 1969, two research groups reported an abrupt and brief increase in the rotation rate of a pulsar; this glitch remains to be explained 44 years on; to date, physicists have spotted more than 3,000 pulsars and around 700 such glitches, and are starting to get a sense of why they happen

S.V. Anantharaman

The year was 1967. The Nathu La and Cho La clashes between the Indian and the Chinese armies had just concluded. A war was raging in Vietnam. The space race was at its peak. At this time, a group of astronomers at the University of Cambridge had put together an array of antennae for use as a telescope to study the radio waves emitted by distant stars.

When they started operating the array, two members of the group - Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Antony Hewish - noticed one set of signals that were flashing in a periodic manner. They didn't know its origins.

We know today that the pair had discovered the first pulsar, named PSR B1919+21.

The pulsar and the neutron

The pulsar turned out to be intimately tied to a discovery from 1932, when James Chadwick had discovered the neutron. When neutrons are in a group, they are not allowed to have the same energies. Each neutron will have to settle for the *lowest available* energy level. If gravity tries to compress this collection of neutrons inward, their inability to 'merge' into a common energy level will resist with an outward pressure.

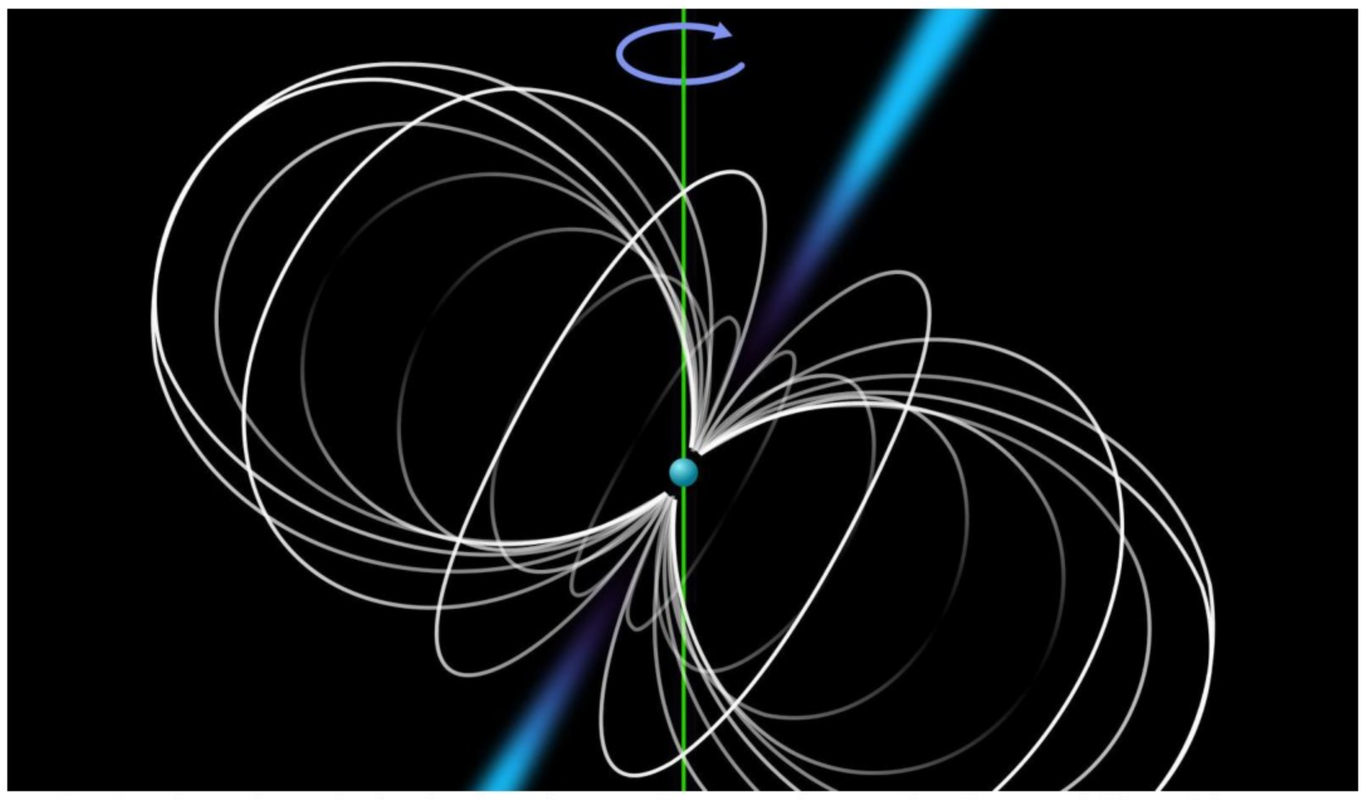
When heavy stars die, their cores implode. If they're heavy enough, they become black holes; but if not, they collapse just enough to form a ball of neutrons, with gravity not being strong enough to overwhelm their outward pressure. This compact, super-dense object is called a neutron star.

When the Cambridge group reported that they had found a pulsar, other scientists proposed several possibilities for the origin of the unusual pulsating signal. Many of them were also rejected (including extraterrestrial civilisations). Ultimately, the fact that the signals came from a very small patch of the sky and that they repeated frequently led scientists to identifying pulsars as *rotating* neutron stars.

Radio signals emitted from near the poles of such a star would form a narrow cone that sweeps past the earth with every rotation - like the light from a lighthouse shining over a ship on the sea.

A not-so-eureka moment

Soon, physicists found that the rotation of these neutron stars slowed over time, and then figured out why. They found that the energy 'saved' by reducing the rotation rate was used to accelerate electric charges outside the star, producing the radio signals.



Grand puzzle: A schematic diagram of a pulsar. The sphere at the centre is the neutron star, the curves indicate the magnetic field lines, and the two cones show the emitted radiation. The green line is the pulsar's axis of rotation. MYSID (CC BY-SA 3.0)

This explanation was satisfying because it fit their theories so neatly - until they discovered a problem in 1969. Two research groups, working separately, reported an abrupt and brief increase in the rotation rate of the pulsar PSR 0833-45.

This glitch remains to be explained 45 years on, although physicists have some ideas. To date, they have spotted more than 3,000 pulsars and around 700 such glitches.

The data they've accumulated plus some physics ideas have given rise to some hypotheses about what these glitches are, and why they happen.

A curious feature

When scientists plotted the rotation rate of pulsars over time on a graph, they saw the familiar decreasing pattern. During a glitch, the rate increases briefly before relaxing to the original value. They found this process to be quite slow. This is a big clue if we assume that the glitch is the result of something happening inside the star.

That is, if the inside of the neutron star was made primarily of regular matter, then all internal relative motions would be damped quickly by friction, in a matter of a few milliseconds. So the slow post-glitch relaxation hinted that the neutrons inside the star were in a slippery, frictionless state, which physicists called a superfluid.

When neutrons are in a group, each neutron will have to settle for the lowest available energy level. If gravity tries to compress this collection of neutrons inward, their inability to 'merge' into a common energy level will resist with an outward pressure

Superfluids have peculiar properties. A superfluid set in motion inside a container will keep moving around. At a certain speed, a slender cylindrical portion will rotate in a vortex.

As the container's rotation rate is increased, more such vortices appear. The number of vortices - or their number density - determines how fast the fluid itself rotates. This has intriguing ramifications for the pulsar.

The origin of glitches

The neutron star is a 20-km-wide sphere with a solid crust and a core. The crust, believed to be a lattice of iron-like nuclei, is interspersed with neutron superfluid. The core predominantly contains the superfluid, and no solid parts.

The presence of the superfluid in a rotating system immediately implies the existence of vortices. As it happens, the vortices have less energy when they attach themselves to the nuclei in the crust than if they don't. And all natural phenomena prefer to have less energy than more. The phenomenon of vortices 'sticking' to the nuclei is called pinning.

As the rotating neutron star loses energy to radiation, the crust slows down. On the other hand, the pinned vortices aren't at liberty to rearrange themselves, which means the density of vortices remains unchanged and maintains the speed of the superfluid's rotation.

The speed difference between the crust and the superfluid leads to a force on the vortices that eventually overcomes the pinning. At this point, the vortices are thrown outward, reducing the speed of the superfluid. The angular momentum lost by the superfluid is gained by the crust and this brief increase in rotation is reflected as a glitch in the pulsar timing data.

Note that several details of the glitching mechanism are greatly contested, including their trigger in space and the way they evolve over time. The topic is thus fertile bed for scientific inquiry - inquiry that could help us understand the variety of physics unfolding inside a neutron star.

As Ghalib said, "The stars are one thing and appear another, these tricksters fool us openly."

(The author is a fourth year PhD scholar in the Department of Physics at Ashoka University.)

THE GIST

When heavy stars die, their cores implode. If they're heavy enough, they become black holes; but if not, they collapse just enough to form a ball of neutrons, with gravity not being strong enough to overwhelm their outward pressure. This compact, super-dense object is called a neutron star

Radio signals emitted from near the poles of such a star would form a narrow cone that sweeps past the earth with every rotation

The fact that the signals came from a very small patch of the sky and that they repeated frequently led scientists to identify pulsars as rotating neutron stars

The rotation of these neutron stars slowed over time; physicists found that the energy 'saved' by reducing the rotation rate was used to accelerate electric charges outside the star, producing the radio signals

BIG SHOT

The tail of a humpback whale at the Gerlache Strait in Antarctica, on January 19. Researchers from various countries are collaborating on projects analysing the current condition of the Antarctic sea and monitoring the species inhabiting the region, during the X Antarctic Expedition aboard the Colombian research vessel *ARC Simon Bolivar*. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Avian navigation

How do birds find their way home after long journeys?

A1: There are many theories explaining this capability of birds. According to one of them, the sun's rays and the direction of winds help them navigate. Birds' extrasensory capabilities assist them in this task and direct them with the help of the earth's magnetic field.

Another theory suggests these winged wonders 'read' and understand star-maps well enough to find their way.

But no one answer has been put down for this as of now.

N. Krishnan, Tiruchi

A2: Birds have the ability to detect changes in atmospheric pressure, weather, and the earth's magnetic field. Based on these, they locate specific regions and find their home.

But the most important navigational aid is said to be an internal magnetic compass they are said to possess in their brains. The compass works in relation to the earth;s magnetic field. The magnetic currents generated here are turned into flight paths.

As a result, disturbances in the field can seriously affect birds' judgement. In July 1988, 3,000 homing pigeons set off for their return journey from northern France to southern England but couldn't reach their destination because an explosion on the surface of the sun a few earlier had produced radiation that disrupted the Earth's magnetic field. As a result, their internal magnetic compass picked up confusing signals and the birds lost their way.

Jayashree Saranathan, Hosur

The most important navigational aid is said to be an internal magnetic compass birds are said to possess, which works in relation to the earth's magnetic field. FILE PHOTO

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Yogi Adityanath
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

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THE HINDU

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33 In percentage. The shares of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) nosedived after Sony called off the proposed $10 billion merger of its India unit with the media group. The scrip of ZEEL also touched its 52-week low of ₹152.50 apiece. PTI

The recorded cases of COVID sub-variant JN.1 in India

1,640 Data compiled by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) showed Maharashtra has recorded the highest number of JN.1 cases at 477 followed by Karnataka at 249. PTI

Worth of contracts signed by NATO for artillery shells

1.2 in $ billion. Members of the Western military alliance have drained their stocks sending shipments of heavy ammunition to help Ukraine's forces battle Russia. The U.S.-led alliance last year launched a plan to bolster defence production. AFP

The number of Israeli soldiers killed in the latest clash

24 This was the biggest single-day loss on the Israeli side since the start of the war in Gaza amid pressure on the government to find a way to end the conflict. On the ground, fighting raged in Khan Yunis, which the army said it had "encircled". AFP

The death toll due to a landslide in Yunnan province of China

31 The landslide occurred in China's southwestern province of Yunnan, Chinese state media reported. Also, an earthquake of magnitude 7.1 struck a sparsely populated part of China's western Xinjiang region. AP

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Analysing the rising gap in incomes

Using data from the 2017-18 and 2022-23 rounds of the Periodic Labour Force Survey, this article examines the changes in income inequality amongst all income earners in India, and disaggregates it according to the nature of employment

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

According to a recent report by the State Bank of India (SBI), India has witnessed a significant fall in inequality over the last decade.

Examining taxpayer data, the report claims that the Gini coefficient – a standard measure of inequality that ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality, to 1, indicating perfect inequality – has fallen from 0.472 in 2014-15 to 0.402 in 2022-23. A fall of almost 15% in the Gini coefficient indicates a significant reduction in inequality.

There are, however, some problems. For one, the analysis is conducted on taxpayer data, and a majority of income-earners fall outside the tax net. According to data from the 2022-23 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), nearly 80% of income-earners earn less than ₹2.5 lakh per annum – the minimum taxable amount.

Using data from the 2017-18 and 2022-23 rounds of the PLFS (comprising the earliest and latest rounds of the survey), this article examines the changes in income inequality amongst all income earners in India, and disaggregates it according to the nature of employment, that is among the self-employed, regular wage and casual wage workers. This analysis reveals that the finding of a reduction in inequality, while broadly true, needs to be qualified in important ways.

The fall in the Gini coefficient is more or less empirically established by the SBI report, but this has been accompanied by a polarisation in incomes. Incomes of the top 10% have grown faster than the bottom 30%, with polarisation largely seen amongst self-employed workers.

Calculating INEQUALITY

These tables show how even though the Gini coefficient has fallen for the tax-paying bracket, the divergence of incomes between the top 10% and the bottom 10% has increased

Table 1: Gini coefficients

	2017-18	2022-23
Overall	0.4297	0.4197
Self-employed	0.37077	0.3765
Regular wage workers	0.43947	0.43198
Casual wage workers	0.27619	0.263

Table 2: The 90/10 ratio

	2017-18	2022-23
Overall	6.667	6.94
Self-employed	6	8.33
Regular wage workers	8.75	7.25
Casual wage workers	4	3.56

Figure 1: The rate of growth of average weekly income of each decile over a five-year period

Aggregate inequality

Unlike previous surveys, the PLFS records gross incomes of the self-employed, thus allowing for a greater depth of analysis.

To be sure, the analysis presented here is a preliminary one, and does not adjust for possible errors in self-reporting of incomes, for those individuals reporting zero income or no income, or seasonal adjustments (since incomes of the self-employed in agriculture varies over the year).

Only those individuals who earn income from work are considered, excluding those who work as unpaid family helpers (a large proportion of whom are women).

The category of the self-employed includes own-account workers – such as individual farmers, roadside hawkers, etc. – and those who are self-employed but also employ other workers. In this simple analysis, only nominal weekly incomes are considered, without adjusting for inflation.

As shown in Table 1, the Gini coefficient has fallen from 0.4297 in 2017-18 to 0.4197 in 2022-23. When comparing the different forms of employment, the Gini coefficient falls for regular wage and casual wage workers, but rises for the self-employed. However, the changes are largely minimal.

The Gini for the self-employed workers rises from 0.37 to 0.3765, an increase of 1.5%.

For regular and casual wage workers, the Gini coefficients register falls of 1.7% and 4.8%, respectively.

Inequality no doubt has fallen, but inequality among the top income earners seems to have fallen far more than when we consider the population as a whole.

The polarisation of incomes

The Gini coefficient is an aggregate measure, which delivers an estimate of inequality considering all incomes in a given sample. It is possible for the Gini coefficient to register a fall in inequality even with a divergence between different classes of income-earners. Figure 1 outlines a process of polarisation occurring in the Indian economy. Income-earners in the two PLFS surveys are divided into deciles, and the average weekly income of each decile is estimated for both periods. The yearly rate of growth of average weekly incomes for each decile over a five-year period is then calculated, and charted in Figure 1.

Most deciles enjoy a similar rate of growth of income. The fourth to ninth deciles – which comprise around 60% of the income-earning population – experience an annual rate of growth of roughly 8%-9% in average incomes. What is of interest is the difference in income growth for the top 10% and the bottom 30%.

The top decile's average income grew at an annual rate of around 7.23%, greater than the bottom 20% and similar to the third decile. The bottom decile saw the slowest income growth, at only around 1.67%. While a majority of the population saw healthy income growth, there was a divergence in fortunes of those at the bottom and the top of the income scales.

This polarisation can be seen in a measure known as the 90/10 ratio, which computes the ratio of incomes of those at the 90th percentile – or the top 10% – to the 10th percentile – the bottom 10%. As shown in Table 2, the ratio has increased from 6.7 in 2017-18 to 6.9 in 2022-23.

What is of interest are the changes in polarisation amongst different forms of work. The 90/10 ratio has fallen for wage earners, with a very significant fall for regular wage workers. In contrast, the 90/10 ratio has increased significantly for the self-employed. The income of the top 10% of self-employed individuals was 8.3 times that of the bottom 10% in 2022-23, a significant increase as compared to 2017-18. The entire polarisation in incomes has come from divergence in incomes of the self-employed.

Accounting for these changes

This is a preliminary analysis of certain broad trends, and more rigorous study is required to fully understand these changes. Nonetheless, we may try to advance an explanation for these contradictory changes occurring in the economy regarding inequality. As has been extensively documented, the rise in women's labour force participation has primarily come about through forms of low-paid, part-time self-employed work. Households may be earning more, and women may be working, but this increase in low-paid self-employed work has led to an increase in the gap between the top and bottom of self-employed incomes. This has increased polarisation amongst income-earners, even though gaps for wage work – both regular and casual – have fallen.

Such polarisation is not seen in taxpayer data since the bottom 10% do not earn enough to be included in the tax net. The pace of reduction of inequality amongst top earners is not reflected by changes amongst the entire population. Reduction in the Gini coefficient hides a process of divergence of incomes. It remains to be seen whether future growth arrests or exacerbates this divergence.

Rahul Menon is Associate Professor in the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy at O.P. Jindal Global University.

THE GIST

- A recent report from the SBI, examining taxpayer data, claims that the Gini coefficient — a standard measure of inequality that ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality, to 1, indicating perfect inequality — has fallen from 0.472 in 2014-15 to 0.402 in 2022-23.
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Of four lakh registered households, 80,000 get PNG supply through GAIL

Many issues, especially rerouting pipelines due to civic utilities using the same route, have affected progress of the project

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

GAIL Gas Limited, the City Gas Distribution (CGD) company, has a goal of adding 50,000 domestic connections for PNG supply every year in Bengaluru. However, many problems, especially that of having to reroute their pipelines due to other civic utilities using the same route, have affected the progress of the project. Before the end of this financial year, the company plans to achieve a goal of 35,000 new connections.

"This year, we could not achieve the 50,000 target mainly because we could not work properly for two

Before the end of this fiscal, GAIL Gas Ltd. plans to achieve a goal of 35,000 new connections

to three months due to the State elections," Hirdesh Kumar, Chief General manager (CGD) & Officer In-Charge Bengaluru, GAIL Gas Limited told *The Hindu*.

35 more CNG stations

Under CGD project, GAIL Gas has been providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to domestic, commercial and industrial customers.

Since February 2015, after being authorised by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), GAIL Gas has laid around 2,000 kilometres of pipeline in Bengaluru. While 2.5 lakh households have been connected with the pipeline, only 80,000 households have been availing supply of PNG. A total of 4 lakh residents from the city have registered for domestic PNG supply, officials from GAIL Gas said.

"All the prominent builders, Government, PSU/Army /Institutions Quarters and colonies are opting for PNG," they added. Apart from domestic supply, GAIL Gas is also supplying PNG to around 215 commercial establishments, 178 industrial units and has also set up 102 CNG stations in the city. By March 2024, the company plans to set up 35 more CNG stations.

Limitations in localities

Despite citizens becoming more aware of the benefits of natural gas, GAIL Gas continues to face some hurdles, which are unique to urban localities in the city. "Bengaluru has a lot of potential when it comes to natural gas supply, but there are several limitations to lay pipeline. Sometimes we have to reroute already laid pipelines due to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and Bangalore Metropolitan Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) network expansion," Mr. Kumar said.

Officials also said that the presence of other utilities also makes it difficult to excavate in certain areas as it would not be safe.

The huge amount of traffic on roads also results in less excavation space and less work area to lay pipelines. "Sometimes, there will also be delays in obtaining approval from BBMP as it has to pass through various levels," Mr. Kumar said.

In October last year, the State cabinet gave its nod to implementation of the State policy for the development of CGD network in Karnataka. GAIL Gas expects this move to accelerate the implementation of PNG and CNG projects.

ORRCA writes to Deputy CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the 100-day deadline to implement measures to ease traffic on Outer Ring Road was up, the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) has written to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar expressing gratitude for the government's effort, while also highlighting how multiple agencies have failed to resolve traffic problems even after 100 days.

ORRCA listed measures that can be taken up. Some are implementation of a system for continuous repair of potholes, repair and give facelift to bus shelters along ORR, resolve rajakaluve issues, increase surveillance along ORR and establish a command centre for round-the-clock monitoring, improve road signage, complete metro works, and better last-mile connectivity.

INBRIEF

Water adalat tomorrow

BWSSB will hold water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. It will be held at the following sub-divisions: South East 3, Central Jail Road, Koodlu GLR.; South East 6: 9th Main Road, BTM Layout 2nd Stage; West 1-3, Dr. M.C. Modi Road, Rajajinagar; North West 5: 1st Floor, 7th Main, MEI Layout, Hesarghatta Road. North 2-3: Pinakini Bhavan, Doddaballapur Road, Major Unnikrishnan Road, Yelahanka. South 1-3, 21st Main Road, 11th Block, Anjanapura; South West 3: M.N.K. Park, Basavanagudi; South West 6: 4th Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, Pavanapura, Lingadheeranahalli, and East 2-4: 1st B Cross, East NGEF Layout, Kasturinagar.

Punjab National Bank mobile ATM inaugurated

A mobile ATM of the Punjab National Bank was inaugurated recently by Alok Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Traffic and Road Safety, Bengaluru. This is an effort by the bank to take banking services closer to the people, a press release said. Deepak Kumar Srivatsava, Zonal Manager, Hyderabad Zone, Ratish Singh, Circle Head, Bengaluru, and senior officials and customers of the bank were present.

ISRO, NSIL explore opportunities to manufacture LVM-3

NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) along with ISRO held a stakeholders conference to explore partnership options between NSIL and Indian Industry for manufacturing ISRO's heaviest launcher Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3) in Bengaluru recently. NSIL, the commercial arm of ISRO, said the event brought together 70 plus participants from over 30 firms to discuss, debate business partnership options. The initiative was undertaken by NSIL and ISRO in light of the emerging global commercial Launch Service market needs especially for the LVM3 class of launch vehicle.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated January 24, we have an explainer on how the Mysore Sandal soap's century-old legacy was threatened by counterfeit operations. This illegal production of the brand resulted in an estimated loss of ₹500 crore to ₹600 crore for the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) over the past decade.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 24, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- Analysing the rising gap in incomes **bit.ly/risingincome**
- How physicists are making sense of the mystery of pulsar glitches **bit.ly/3Og1AwN**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

NIMHANS lab technician, mortuary assistant booked for stealing and selling biopsy samples

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A lab technician and mortuary assistant of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) have been booked for allegedly stealing biopsy samples of patients to sell them to Kerala-based private colleges and institutes.

The accused Chandrashekhar M., working in the neuro-oncology department, and mortuary assistant Annadurai S. were caught during a surprise inspection by the head of the department Anitha Mahadevan on December 23.

Sold illegally

The inspection team found that many paraffin blocks containing biopsy samples were missing.

The duo confessed that they had sold it to one Raghuram of Kerala and other private colleges and institutes illegally, said the police.

A report was submitted, based on which Shankaranarayana Rao B.S., Registrar of NIMHANS, filed a complaint with the Siddapura police. The police have summoned the accused and one of them has been questioned, said Rahul Kumar Shahpurwad, DCP south division.

The police suspect that the racket has been operational for many months as there was demand for different kinds of samples.

Internal probe

Mr. Shankarnarayana Rao said along with the police investigation, a three-member internal committee was also looking into the issue.

"We have dealt with theft of biopsy samples before. Every year, we receive more than 10,000 samples. They must have been stolen to develop new diagnostic kits. The committee is investigating to find out how many samples are missing and since when. Probably by next weekend, we can get more details," he said.

BBMP orders demolition of school for deviating from building plan

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued an order to demolish a private school in the city for deviating from the approved building plan, violating building bylaw.

The BBMP, on December 27, 2023, in its provisional order said the school building, identified as BGS Bloomfield School, Thyagarajanagar, violated the building bylaws by not adhering to the plan sanctioned by the Town Planning Department. The property owner had submitted a plan claiming that they will be building a hostel. The school comes under the south zone of the civic body.

The BBMP, along with this order, issued a notice to the owner seeking explanation for the deviation and gave seven days to rectify the mistake. The notice further said if the violator failed to follow the directions, then action would be initiated. In the provisional order copy, the BBMP has also mentioned the extent of deviation. After about 15 days of issuing the provisional order, the BBMP, on January 11, issued another confirmation order, in which the civic body has given 15 days' time to demolish the structure on their own, failing which the civic body will demolish it.

The BBMP said BGS Bloomfield School, Thyagarajanagar, violated the building bylaws by not adhering to the plan sanctioned by the Town Planning Department. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The documents accessed by *The Hindu* show that the school constructed the building without parking space. The stilt floor (basement for parking) as per the sanction plan is 375.67 sq.m and the actual built up area is 699.06 sq.m The deviation is 86.08%. The ground floor as per the sanction plan should be 375.66 sq.m, but the actual built up area is 699.06 sq.m. The deviation is 86.09%. The plan deviation on the first and second floors is also 86.09%, while the terrace has 100% deviation. The total build up area as per sanction plan should be 1531.22 sq.m, but the actual built up area when constructed is 2,941.44 sq.m.

A BBMP official said: "We have issued notices to the school and soon, we will take necessary action. We have now given time for the school to demolish on their own and rebuild as per the sanction plan. The school so far has not adhered to the directions and soon, the structure will be demolished."

However, when contacted, B. Gurappa Naidu, chairman of the school, said he has not received any notice from the BBMP. "This is an A Khata property and I have paid property tax, besides securing sanctioned plan," he added.

Priyank Kharge: State will focus on skill development for AVGC sector

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Karnataka has an urgent mandate to develop skill sets, intellectual properties and millions of jobs to support the growth of its Animation, Visual Effects, & Gaming and Comics (AVGC) industry, stated Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT, BT, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj here on Tuesday.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge

He said the State already has over 300 specialised AVGC and XR (extended reality) players and studios employing over 15,000 professionals and the entire industry ecosystem has the potential to create 2.5 lakh additional jobs across diverse roles.

"Heavy impetus will be on skill development to support the growth and development of AVGC sector in Karnataka. We have to encourage new talent and new technologies," he said.

Mr. Kharge further said that the State has a deep focus on creation of start-ups in the AVGC space, IP creation was another critical area, introduction of fresh AVGC policy as the earlier one was lapsing and all these would be aimed at creating employment and increasing the State's revenue from AVGC-related businesses.

GAFX 2024

AVGC sector's annual conference, Bengaluru GAFX 2024, is scheduled to be held between January 29 and 31 in the city. GAFX, organised in association with industry apex body ABAI, will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Deputy D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Kharge said that this edition of the GAFX will have a heavy impetus on skilling in order to nurture employability in the gaming and animation ecosystem.

Karnataka currently holds a strong 20% share in the Indian media and entertainment industry. The State is home to many institutes dedicated to animation, visual effects, and gaming. The State set up Digital Art Centres in 27 Fine Arts Colleges catering to 600 students and one AVGC-XR finishing school, according to the Minister.

"These efforts of the government to create a robust ecosystem are expected to pave way for future growth and more investments to the State," he said.

This edition of GAFX will see some leading Indian and international names in the world of visual effects.

Works of visual effects from Hollywood that wowed audiences the world over will be presented at the GAFX, including the Oscar-winning Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio, Antman & Wasp Quantamania, and The Fast & the Furious X.

Presentations

Cutting-edge animation presentations and showcases will include the animation of Oscar-nominated movie Nimona by the DNEG, spectacular animated features from India by Oscar-nominated studio Mikros Animation and Independent Global Animation Films by Assemblage.

PSI recruitment re-exam goes off peacefully

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At the re-examination for the recruitment of 545 police sub-inspectors (PSIs) on Tuesday, a security official at St. Joseph's College cut the sleeves of a candidate to half using scissors after the latter was found wearing a full-sleeved shirt in violation of the dress code. In another incident, police personnel used shampoo to remove a bracelet from a candidate from Gadag who sustained bruises in the process.

A candidate's earring being removed before she was allowed to the exam hall in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

As many as 54,000 candidates appeared for the exam at the 117 centres across the city, and it went off peacefully. Six police personnel, four men and two women, were deployed at each centre. The candidates were subjected to multiple levels of checks for adherence to the dress code before being allowed into the exam hall.

Full-sleeved shirts, jeans trousers with multiple or zipped pockets, big buttons with special designs, etc., were banned. Shoes and socks, caps and masks, electronic gadgets and pencil boxes, log books and water bottles were also banned. The police stepped up vigil in and around the exam hall.

Officials unearth liquor smuggling racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State excise officials on Tuesday unearthed an inter-State liquor smuggling racket and arrested two people who were transporting 370 boxes containing 16,000 liquor bottles worth ₹50 lakh.

The accused were found transporting the bottles from Goa via Belagavi to different parts of Bengaluru. A team of officials led by Deputy Commissioner Veeranna Bagewadi and Deputy Superintendent of police Muzawar Abubakar intercepted the goods vehicle and arrested driver Amith and Paramesh while the truck was heading to Hoskote. The accused confessed that they had sourced the liquor from Goa and were selling it to their contacts at a cheaper rate. The seized liquor, suspected to be substandard, has been sent to the lab.

16 school bus drivers booked for drunk driving

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru traffic police conducted a special drive between 7.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. focusing on school vehicle drivers, on Tuesday. They booked 16 drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol.

At total of 3,414 vehicles were checked and 16 drivers were found driving under the influence of alcohol. Criminal cases have been registered against the 16 drivers. Their DLs have been sent to the RTO for suspension, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) M.N. Anucheth said.

On January 20, Bengaluru police started a special drive against erring motorists in and around schools. In East division alone, 510 cases were booked, including 154 for violating of one-way, 328 for riding without helmets, and 17 for triple riding.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:17
RISE	17:09	SET 05:38
THURSDAY, JAN. 25		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:17
RISE	18:03	SET 06:27
FRIDAY, JAN. 26		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:18
RISE	18:55	SET 07:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	30	16

Bengaluru Today
31°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The nation's future: Primary school students walk towards their study centre at Tikarpada village in the Angul district of Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Gender equity in education: the need to focus on early childhood education

The gender gap widens with progressive levels of education owing to greater barriers to schooling that girls face due to social norms and deeply ingrained gender stereotypes correlated with biological factors such as adolescence

Sarah Iype

The latest Annual Status of Education Report shows that while girls and boys from rural India equally aspire to become doctors or engineers, when it comes to choosing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses, it is boys who take up STEM courses more than girls. In this article, dated May 17, 2020, Sarah Iype talks about the gender gap in educational attainment.

Every March, the spotlight falls on half the world's population, commemorating the historic journey for women's rights. Besides honouring social victories such as universal suffrage and women's greater contribution to economic activities, the month also calls for an honest reflection on their current status. While issues such as labour force participation and crime rates typically feature in the limelight, it is time we focused on the subtler manifestations of gender-related issues in one of the most critical areas for development – education. An analysis in the Indian context throws out four fascinating facts.

First, a comparison focused exclusively on learning outcomes reveals gender equity. Data from one of the largest competency-based sample surveys in school education, the National Achievement Survey (2017), covering over 22 lakh students, shows parity in learning levels between boys and girls in elementary and secondary classes across the country. For example, the average test scores in mathematics for girls and boys in Classes 3 and 5 are exactly the same at 63 and 53, respectively. In Class 10, scores are identical in both language and mathematics. In fact, the maximum difference in subject scores between the two genders across all classes rarely exceeds one percentage point. However an analysis of this kind tends to eclipse the prevalent gender discrimination in education, as evidenced below.

Second, though girls in India today are more educated than they have ever been, the gap in educational attainment, as reflected in the mean years of schooling, has worsened over time. Over the past two decades, the mean years of schooling for girls has almost tripled from just 1.7 years in 1990 to 4.7 in 2018. Boys are also getting more education. The same period also witnessed a doubling in the average educational attainment for males from 4.1 to 8.2 years. Despite the higher rate of improvement in the mean years of schooling for girls, the gender gap, measured as the simple difference between male and female attainment, has actually increased with time from 2.4 years to 3.5 years. Interestingly, this marks India's divergence from global trends, where most countries across the world have actually recorded equal improvements for both genders. In fact, countries in West Asia and North Africa like Kuwait, Libya and even Saudi Arabia have shown declines in the gender gap in attainment.

Third, the gender gap widens with progressive levels of education owing to greater barriers to schooling that girls face due to social norms and deeply ingrained gender stereotypes correlated with biological factors such as adolescence. While the dropout rate for boys in Class 1 is marginally higher at 6.88 (6.38 for girls), this trend radically reverses by Class 8, when almost twice the number of girls are dropping out of the schooling system.

Fourth, and most important, the roots of gender discrimination emerge at the earliest stages of education. The latest Annual Status of Education Report "Early Years" is proof of this. More boys than girls tend to be enrolled in private institutions, where parents incur out-of-pocket expenditure. The preferred choice for girls' enrolment is the free government school, highlighting societal gender biases in exercising school choice. Even at the age of four, there exists a five percentage point gender difference in total enrolment. Once again, this differential is correlated with age and time, and crosses eight percentage points by the age of eight. In fact, research shows that in cultures in which a higher value is placed on education of male children, more girls are likely to be taken out of school.

Focus on ECE

The implication for policy is clear – it is time the focus shifted to early childhood education (ECE), stemming the roots of the gender gap in education. Early childhood is where the seeds of gender norms are ingrained and where children develop an understanding of identities, behaviours and stereotypes. Typically between the ages of three and seven, children can acquire strong biases about the nature of jobs men and women should do.

These biases, played out over the long run, can impede an individual from realising the full potential.

The lack of a regulatory framework, inadequate funding, poor quality and no legislation for universal access to early childhood education continue to serve as bottlenecks in India. These challenges must be addressed urgently. Longitudinal studies estimate that every dollar invested in ECE yields over a thousand dollars in return, proving that benefits outweigh costs by an incredible margin. The foundations for a right education must thus be established, not just by ensuring universal enrolment in early childhood education but by also focusing on how preschools impart an education that eliminates gender stereotypes and therefore, erases the gender gap. In fact, with increased funding and an actionable roadmap, the Prime Minister's flagship Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao could be the ideal launch pad to kick start the campaign for universal early childhood education across the country. The Draft National Education Policy also accords due weight to ECE and this should be implemented at the earliest in mission mode.

The discourse is ripe on the multiple private returns, social externalities and intergenerational benefits to girls' education. Through reduced poverty, infant mortality and crime. and improved economic development, girls' education plays out as a virtuous cycle. The resounding message is to consistently augment the social capital for the one gender which is, literally and metaphorically, responsible for creating a new future.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. M. Sreedharan, Rayarangoth, Badagara, wants to know the difference between 'excuse' and 'forgive'."

"You excuse minor offences.

I excuse you for coming late to the meeting.

When you forgive someone, you excuse him; also you don't carry any ill-feeling towards him. You forgive and forget. 'Excuse' is used of small offences. 'Forgive' is used of small and big offences.

Forgive me for my interruption.

Forgive us our sins."

"Ms. Geeta. T.Nagar, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'referral' and how to use it."

" 'Referral' is a formal word. It is 'an act or instance of being referred, especially to another person or organisation for consideration, treatment, etc.'

The referral to the matter of the Cabinet Secretariat was considered.

It is not a general hospital. It is a referral hospital."

"Mr. S. Chandrasekaran, Neyveli refers to the use of 'prepone' by a TV news reader on October 1, and wants to know whether it is acceptable."

"You won't find the word 'prepone' in English dictionaries. The opposite of 'postpone' is 'advance'. 'Prepone' is used widely in India. It may become acceptable one day. Doordarshan has "door darshan'; others don't have it."

"Mr. R. Ramamurthy, Sitaphalmandi, Secunderabad, wants to know the difference between 'I know it fully well' and 'I know it full well'."

" 'Fully well' means 'completely'. 'Full' in 'full well' means 'very'. 'Full' in this expression is rather formal. In the sense of 'very', it is used frequently in poetry."

"Mr. N. Rajagopalachary, Cheelapur, Karimnagar district, wants to know the meaning of the sentence 'He turned down the olive branch'."

"In ancient Greece, the olive branch was a symbol of peace and fertility. 'To hold out the olive branch' means 'to make an offer of peace, to indicate one's peaceful intentions'. To turn down the olive branch is 'to reject any offer of peace'. This idiom is used on formal occasions. 'Olive branches' is a jocular term for children. The allusion here is to the Bible. 'Thy wife shall be as fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table' (Psalm 128). In *Nicholas Nickleby*, Dickens writes: The wife and olive branches of one Mr. Kenwigs'. Please note that this expression is a jocular one. Don't ask your boss how his 'olive branches' are doing. He may transfer you to a remote branch office!"

"Ms. L Dhar, Chandigarh, wants to know how to use 'belie'."

" 'Belie' means 'to give a wrong or untrue idea of something'.

His report belies facts.

It also means 'fail to justify or fulfil'.

War bellied hopes for peace.

Published in The Hindu on October 30, 1990.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Homi. J. Bhabha, known as the father of the Indian nuclear programme, died on this day in 1966. A quiz on the renowned nuclear physicist

Joan Sony Cherian

QUESTION 1

Homi Bhabha was the first Indian to receive the Adams prize. Which institution awards the prize?

QUESTION 2

Dr. Bhabha was once described as 'the modern equivalent of Leonardo da Vinci' by this scientist. Name him.

QUESTION 3

Dr. Bhabha was the chairman of India's first Atomic Energy Commission. Who were the other two members of the commission?

QUESTION 4

Dr. Bhabha came up with a strategy for India's nuclear power programme which was different from all other countries. Rather than focusing on uranium, he proposed that the nation extract this mineral. Name the mineral and the strategy.

QUESTION 5

A simple one. How did the famous scientist die?

QUESTION 6

Dr. Bhabha famously claimed in an All India Radio broadcast that if given permission, India could make a nuclear bomb in _____ months. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 7

Dr. Bhabha had returned to India for his vacation in 1939. This event delayed his trip back to England and eventually led him to stay in India and work for the country's nuclear programme. Name the event.

Visual question:
Here Dr. Bhabha holds the post of President. Where is this image from? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Dali never got his diploma for this controversial reason. **Ans: For declaring he was ' I am more intelligent than the professors and therefore refuse to be examined by them'**
2. This work of Dali's is set on the seashore of northernmost Catalonia at Cape Creus. **Ans: 'The Persistence of Memory' (La persistencia de la memoria)**
3. This Spaniard is said to have given Dali a loan of $500 to make his first trip to New York in 1934. **Ans: Pablo Picasso**
4. Dali is remembered by Alfred Hitchcock fans for his work in this film. **Ans: *Spellbound* (1946)**
5. Name his Russian spouse. **Ans: Gala**
6. This work by Dali has the Venus De Milo. **Ans: The Hallucinogenic Toreador**
7. Dali designed limited-edition ashtrays for this Indian brand. **Ans: Air India**
Visual: Identify this painting. **Ans: Galacidalacidesoxyribonucleicacid**
Early Bird: Sunil Kannada

Word of the day

Somnolent:
inclined to or marked by drowsiness

Synonyms: slumberous, sleepy

Usage: *The gentle clanging of the bell had a somnolent effect.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/somnolentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈsɒmnələnt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

WEDNESDAY
January 24, 2024

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SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL — Day 1 - January 26, 2024 — THE HINDU PAVILION (Next to Sir Mutha Concert Hall)

9.30 am
Inauguration

9.50 am
Rich India: Will India Become a Wealthy Nation by 2047?
Jayati Ghosh, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, N. Ravi, Sanjay Kaul and T.N. Ninan in conversation with Raghuvir Srinivasan

11.10 am
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi I Am An Ordinary Man: India's Struggle for Freedom (1914-1948)
Gopalkrishna Gandhi

12.00 pm
Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle Against the British Maritime Empire
A.R. Venkatachalapathy in conversation with Ramachandra Guha

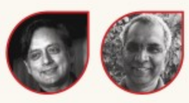
12.55 pm
Remembering Vivan Sundaram: A Journey Through Images
Ashish Rajadhyaksha

2.20 pm
The Power Couple: The Life and Times of Sudha and Narayana Murthy
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni in conversation with Shunali Shroff

3.15 pm
Recalling Habib Tanvir: Excerpts from the Film and a Talk
Sudhanva Deshpande

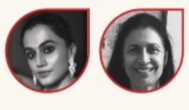
4.10 pm
Bahubali: Insights into Jainism
Devdutt Pattanaik

4.55 pm
Food Against Fanaticism
Subodh Kerkar



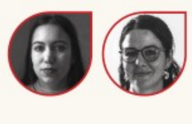
5.45 pm
Wizard of Words
Shashi Tharoor in conversation with David Davidar

6.50 pm
Imaging Women Nationalists: Serving the Nation State
Anita Ratnam and Shovana Narayan in conversation with Shalin Maria Lawrence



7.55 pm
The Sporting Heroine
Taapsee Pannu in conversation with Vidya Singh

9.45 am
Faultlines of Faith
Arjun Appadurai, Revati Laul, and Ziya us Salam in conversation with Varghese K. George



10.50 am
Memory and Home: Home and Life in Exile
Ronya Othmann in conversation with Katharina Gorgen

11.45 am
Finding the Song in Sangam Poetry
T.M. Krishna and Perumal Murugan in conversation (Bilingual)

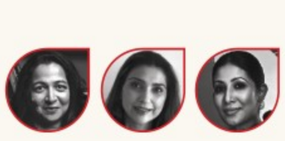
12.40 pm
The Inner Workings of Power
Neerja Chowdhury in conversation with Ramya Kannan

2.10 pm
May I Have Your Attention Please?: How to Hold an Audience
Anuradha Menon, Cyrus Broacha, and Kanan Gill in conversation with Suresh Balakrishna

3.15 pm
The Maverick Politician
Mani Shankar Aiyar in conversation with Chandan Gowda

4.10 pm
Breakup: A Marriage in Wartime
Anjan Sundaram in conversation with Stanly Johny

5.15 pm
Breaking Form to Build Narrative: An Experiment with Translation
Charu Nivedita and Nandini Krishnan in conversation (Bilingual)



6.00 pm
Too Woke To Be Funny
Kiran Manral and Shunali Shroff in conversation with Rosella Stephen

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OPPORTUNITIES

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Talent discovered on 'the home stretch'

Flexible employment for homemakers is gaining ground in corporate India

Liffy Thomas

After easing the way back to the cubicle for women professionals through second-career programmes, organisations are now bringing stay-at-home moms on their payrolls through flexible employment.

Shikha Gupta is one of the faces of this trend. Forty years old and a mother of two, Shikha does "six calling hours" a day for app-based remote sales platform SquadStack, picking those hours at her convenience.

SquadStack, a nine-year-old company based in Noida, is fast gaining a reputation for promoting this model – finding sales talent among homemakers.

"We have embraced the untapped potential of stay-at-home moms with 70% of our recent hires coming from this segment," says Apur Agrawal, co-founder and CEO, SquadStack.

In addition, SquadStack also hires college students and senior citizens with good communication skills and problem-solving abilities.

Apur notes this model empowers remote workers, particularly women in non-metropolitan areas, who may lack local opportunities but possess maturity and empathy that would be required for roles like sales executive.

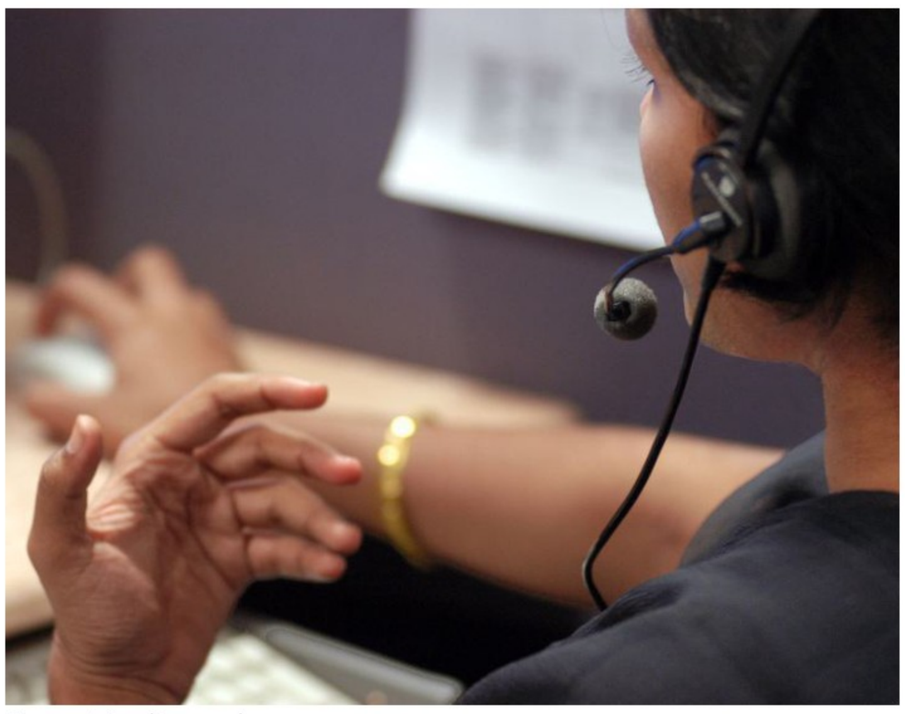
Axis Bank launched 'HouseWorkIsWork' in January 2022 inspired by an innovative resume it received from a candidate, Pallavi Sharma, who described various facets of her experience as a homemaker as a skill needed in the corporate world.

Later, the bank tweaked its hiring policy to create a talent pool based on gender-agnostic roles in various verticals.

"The intent of the campaign was to hire at least 15 homemakers for available roles in various departments – HR, Sales, Operations and Branch Banking among them. We received applications from over 4,000 homemakers across the country and hired 22 employees," says Harish Iyer, Vice-President and Head – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Axis Bank.

The company is planning to relaunch this campaign in the coming months.

Start-up FuelBuddy has been hiring stay-at-home moms as "Women Energy Consultants" offering flexible work options.



Representational image only

M2P Fintech, a Chennai-headquartered banking infrastructure company, launched 'Better Half Program', one that offers full-time employment to women seeking to balance home and work, with the option of a half working day.

Last year, Titan Company launched 'Sequal', a returnship programme that provides women professionals a pathway back to work through time-bound projects, supported by re-entry assistance, mentoring and training.

> ***Most companies do not place any restrictions on the age of the candidate or the duration of the career gap***

Based on performance and business needs, candidates are inducted for regular, full-time employment upon completion of the programme. Age is not a bar and roles are open across IT, digital, marketing and finance.

"Sequal is an opportunity to give women a springboard to grow, build their confidence and improve their networking skills. But we noticed that it is not easy to find the right talent and they need a lot of nudging. Of the 75 candidates that showed interest, 20 were enrolled," says Priya Mathilakath, Head - HR (Retail and Corporate).

A nascent movement

But the number of companies targetting the professional-turned-homemaker segment of the population is still small. According to job site Naukri.com, the job listings for women with career break declined after the pandemic.

According to its data, from 48 every day on an average in October 2019, the listings have plummeted to 19 between October and December 2023.

Returnship programme

Given that gender diversity ratio in corporate India is low, many companies are expanding the scope of returnship programmes. Most companies do not place any restrictions on the age of the candidate or the duration of the career gap. Certain roles have become agnostic in terms of geographic boundaries thanks in large part to the pandemic.

Priya agrees that the silver lining in the pandemic was that hiring managers were now open to taping talent from the professional-turned-homemaker segment and also work out flexible work arrangements for them. "The larger goal of such initiatives is to give women the confidence to make a comeback," says Priya.

This confidence could also be instilled through feedback, as a note on the Titan-sequal website puts it: "Feedback will be provided to candidates who are not selected."

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No.2024/738/HQ 22/01/2024
Online applications are invited for the post of **Professor - Decentralisation and Local Governance** on regular basis. Interested candidates may apply on or before **15.02.2024**.
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MUMBAI	:	Sunday, 28th January 2024 at JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar, Address: IA Project Road, Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Andheri, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400099
HYDERABAD	:	Saturday, 03rd February 2024 at ITC Kakatiya Hotel, Address: 6-3-1187, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016
BENGALURU	:	Sunday, 04th February 2024, at JW Marriott Hotel, Address: 24/1 Vitthal Mallya Road, Bengaluru- 560001
CHENNAI	:	Saturday, 10th February 2024, at The Leela Palace Chennai, Address: MRC Nagar, Raja Annamalai Puram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

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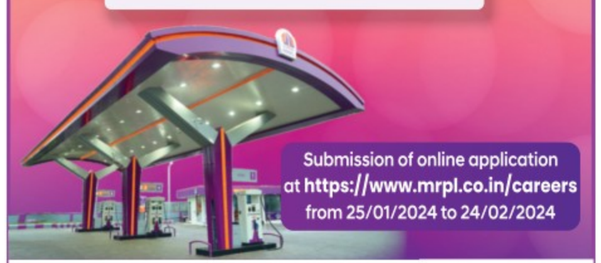

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10.00 am
The Power of Idol Worship
Amish and Bhavna Roy in conversation with Anita Ratnam

10.55 am
Let's Talk Money: Making Your Money Work For You
Monika Halan in conversation with Aarathi Krishnan

11.55 am
The Cooking of Books
Ramachandra Guha in conversation with Nirmala Lakshman

12.50 pm
Journey to India Modern
Tarun Tahiliani in conversation with Rosella Stephen

2.25 pm
Beyond the Kitchen: Chefs Forging a Fresh Culinary Landscape
Chef Manu Chandra, Chef Sashi Cheliah, Chef Thomas Zacharias in conversation with Shonali Muthalaly

3.30 pm
A Viral World: Countering Fake News
Sreenivasan Jain, N. Ram and Pratik Sinha in conversation with Ziya us Salam

4.40 pm
India's Last High Commissioner to Pakistan: The Inside Story
Ajay Bisaria in conversation with Varghese K. George

5.35 pm
The Body Politic
Pushpamala N

6.25 pm
Democracy Fatigue: Why is the World Moving Towards the Right?
Arjun Appadurai

7.10 pm
Transformative Leadership in ISRO: My Experience
S. Somanath

10.00 am
Some Truths About Pain and Suffering
Shweta Singh Kirti in conversation with Chitra Mahesh

10.55 am
A Crime Wave
Anuja Chauhan, Harini Nagendra, Kiran Manral and Tarun Mehrishi in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar

12.00 pm
The World of Storyteller: The Power of Rooted Fiction
Tejaswini Apte-Rahm and Abdullah Khan in conversation with Nandini Krishnan

12.55 pm
A Taste of Memory: A Celebration of Food and Family
Tarana Husain Khan and Rakesh Raghunathan in conversation with Deepa S. Reddy

2.30 pm
Acts of God
Kanan Gill in conversation with Anuradha Menon

3.25 pm
Double Distilled Fiction
Daisy Rockwell in conversation with K. Srilata

4.20 pm
Dalit History: Text and Context Reading and Reconstructing Dalit History through Dalit Non-Fiction
Stalin Rajangam in conversation with G. Gurusamy (Tamil)

5.15 pm
Another India: Events, Memories People
Chandan Gowda in conversation with Suresh Seshadri

6.10 pm
Narratives of the Oppressed: Voices of Assertion
Perumal Murugan and Azhagiya Periyavan in conversation (Tamil)

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Power-deficient year pushes implementation of multi-year tariff in Karnataka to next FY

Under the multi-year tariff system, electricity supply tariff for three years would be predetermined through projections based on previous trends; industries had expressed disapproval of the MYT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After announcing in 2023 its intention to implement a multi-year tariff (MYT) system in the State from the Financial Year 2024-2025, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) decided to drop it for this year after many stakeholders expressed their objections to the immediate implementation of the system.

Under MYT, the electricity supply tariff for three years would be predetermined through projections based on previous trends.

The representatives of industries and commercial establishments had expressed their disapproval of the MYT in a public hearing held by KERC in November. "Industries argued that if the data from the current year was used for projections, then it would only show an increasing trend due to the increased power purchase costs this year. In all likelihood, the costs will stabilise in the upcoming financial year, and they want us to wait till then," said P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC.

Electricity supply companies had their own concerns about implementing multi-year tariff and had also asked KERC to wait till FY 2025–2026.

He also said that electricity supply companies (escoms) had their own concerns about implementing MYT. "They said that it would be difficult for them to make projections now as the Covid period cannot be considered for projection," he said.

The escoms have also asked KERC to wait till financial year 2025-2026 for the implementation.

"For MYT, we need to have projection of power purchase costs for around five years. Especially since this is a power deficit year, the projection of power purchase costs comes with challenges. Since there is power deficit in many parts of the country, we do not know how the situation will play out yet," said J. Darshan, Director of Finance, Bescom.

He further said, "With the weather vagaries and coal issues, we are not in a position to effectively predict the rate of power."

The KERC, for now, is confident of implementing MYT in FY 2025-2026, but industries have argued that with constant revision of Fuel and Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (FPPCA), there would be no concept of tariff certainty that should ideally come with predetermined tariff structure.

"With FPPCA, there will be no tariff certainty. As utilities would have to buy power from various sources, nobody will know for sure what the price they are supposed to pay. It is high time that industrial tariffs which decided the manufacturing costs for industries are stabilised. While MYT looks good as a policy, the implementation, monitoring and course correction should happen concurrently for it to be successful," said M.G. Prabhakar, former advisory member, KERC and energy advisor to Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FKCCI).

AstraZeneca gets CDSCO nod to import anti-bleeding drug

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City-based AstraZeneca Pharma India Ltd., biopharmaceutical firm, on Tuesday said it has received approval from Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for importing and marketing of Andexanet Alfa in India.

Andexanet Alfa is a novel and life-saving antidote designed to reverse the effects of anticoagulant medications in emergency situations. It is well-tolerated and facilitates the early restart of anticoagulation following a bleeding event. The therapy is administered through an intravenous (IV) bolus over a duration of 15-30 minutes, followed by a 2-hour infusion, as per a company statement.

This ground-breaking treatment would address life-threatening or refractory bleeding associated with the use of Factor Xa (FXa) inhibitors, it further said.

Sanjeev Panchal, country president and MD, AstraZeneca India, said: "With this approval, we are working to make this important medicine available for patients on FXa inhibitors who have life-threatening or uncontrolled bleeding."

With the increasing critical role of FXa inhibitors in managing thrombotic events and atrial fibrillation-related stroke risks, the approval of Andexanet Alfa represented a milestone, addressing a crucial need in the medical industry, said Anil Kukreja, V-P, Medical Affairs and Regulatory, AstraZeneca India.

Volvo rolls out 10,000th car made in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Volvo Cars produced 10,000 cars at its factory in Hoskote in the outskirts of Bengaluru as on January 18. It was in 2017 that the Swedish passenger car manufacturer commenced car assembly operations with its popular model XC90 in the city. Till date, it has produced over 4,000 units of XC60 cars here. And its 10,000th car is its pure electric model, XC40 recharge, made in India, according to the company.

Man booked for duping graduate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime police are on the lookout for a man who, posing as a techie from a leading IT company, cheated an engineering graduate by promising a job.

The victim from Mico Layout was looking for jobs in IT firms after completing his BE course. He had shared his resume with his senior in college for help.

On December 25, he received a message from a person identifying himself as Suryanash Thothe, working in an IT company, assuring to accommodate him. The accused asked him to transfer money. The victim consulted his friend and transferred ₹4.5 lakh to the bank account online. The cheating came to light when he did not receive any communication as promised and he tried to reach Thothe, but the number was not reachable. He later received a message on WhatsApp demanding ₹50,000 more to get the job. The police are now trying to track down the accused based on the contact number.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. T.S. Suresh,** S/o. Late Mr. T.P. Shivanna, aged about 63 years, R/at Villa No. A-4, MIMS ESPACIO, Jakkur, Bangalore - 560 064 is the owner of Property bearing No. 180, PID No. 10-69-180 Mahalakshmi Puram Further Extension, Bangalore having acquired the same by way of Absolute sale deed bearing No. RJN-1-02693 -2007-08 stored in CD No. RJND114 dated 20-9-2007. The seller had also handed over possession Certificate bearing No. P.C.R. No.74/2007-08 dated 3-7-2007 in the name of Mr. Anantharama Setty and Mrs. Subbarathnamma issued by BDA Bangalore. The said Possession Certificate bearing P.C.R. 74/ 2007-098 dated 3-7-2007 is misplaced/ lost. In this regard a E lost police complaint with Bangalore City Police is lodged on 19-1-2024 and the same is numbered as 0895828/2024. The general public is hereby informed through this public notice to return the said Possession Certificate bearing P.C.R. 74/2007-08 dated 3-7-2007 to the undersigned or to the Officer, The Bangalore Development authority if found and they will be suitably rewarded. The general public is also informed through this notice that any person accidentally or voluntarily holding this document will be subjected to Prosecution as per the law of the land.

SCHEDULE / DOCUMENT DETAILS

Possession Certificate issued by Bangalore Development authority bearing P.C.R. No. 74/2007-08 dated 3-7-2007 in the name of Mr. Anantharama Setty and Mrs. Subbarathnamma in respect of Property No. 180, measuring 137.38 sq mts. East to West 12.19 meters North to South 11.27 meters situated at Mahalakshmipuram Further Extension, Bangalore and bounded on **East by:** Property No. 179, **West by:** Property No. 181, **North by :** Road, **South by:** Property No. 190.

Mr. NAGENDRA PRASAD B.M, Advocate No.311, Om Mahalajala, III Main Road, GKVK Layout, Jakkur, Bangalore-560064. Mobile 98440 45896. Email: nprasad_66@yahoo.co.in

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342
E-mail: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in

No: BMCRI/Sup(2)/07/2023-24 **Dated: 22-01-2024**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Radiofrequency Abalation Machine to Dept. of Anaesthesiology, Victoria Hospital, Laparoscopic Unit to Vani Vilas Hospital and Medical Equipments to Minto Eye Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Tender details, EMD details and other related details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the e-Procurement mode only. Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Interested tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement Portal, details of which can be viewed in the said website.

1) Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders: **24-01-2024. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **06-02-2024. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: **23-02-2024 before 4.30 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Tenders: **26-02-2024 at 11.30 AM.** For further details contact **Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**

Sd/- Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3205/Adverto/2023-24

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Ph: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/44/2023-24 **Date: 22-01-2024**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

e-Tenders are invited for **Supply and Installation of Medical Equipments required for ICU, Nephro Urology and Medical & Surgical Oncology Departments of Super Speciality Hospitals of Mysore, Gulbarga and Belagavi Medical Colleges.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 24-01-2024

Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 05-02-2024 at 11.30 AM

Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 23-02-2024 before 4.30 PM

Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 26-02-2024 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/3192/Adverto/2023-24 **Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client has intent to purchase the following immovable properties:
Item No.1 All that piece and parcel of immovable residential premises bearing **Site No. 227/1,** Old Village.Panchayat Katha Form No.9 and 10 bearing No. 241/1/227/1, present BBMP Katha No.732/241/1/-227/1, **Measuring 1200 Sq.feet,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Site No.227;
West by : Road;
North by : Others Property;
South by : Site No.226/1;
Item No.2 All that piece and parcel of immovable residential premises bearing **Site No. 229/1,** comprised in Sy.No.20,21,23 & 24, Old Village.Panchayat.Katha Form No.9 bearing No.241, Form No.10 bearing No.270, present BBMP Katha No.311/229/1-229/1, Ward No.149, **Measuring 1200 Sq.feet,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Site No.229 of Chinnappa
West by : Site NO.229/2;
North by : Road;
South by : Site No.228/1;
Item No.3 All that piece and parcel of immovable residential premises bearing **Site No. 228/1,** comprised in Sy.No.20,21,23 & 24, Old V.P.Katha No.228/1, present BBMP Katha No.306/A-228/1-228/1, Ward No.149, **Measuring 600 Sq.feet,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Road;
West by : Site No.229/2;
North by : Site No.229/1;
South by : Site No.227/1;
Item No.4 All that piece and parcel of immovable residential premises bearing **Site No. 226/1,** Old Village.Panchayat.Katha Form No.9 bearing No.247, Form No.10 bearing No.267, present BBMP Katha No.319/226/1-226/1, Ward No.149, **Measuring 1200 Sq.feet,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Property of Shambuling; Site No.226
West by : House of Venkagiriyappa;
North by : Others Property;
South by : Road;
Item No.5 All that piece and parcel of immovable residential premises bearing **Site No. 226,** Old Katha No.241, Old Village Panchayat .Katha Form No.9 bearing No.239/1, Form No.10 bearing No.241, New Katha No.241 vide Form 9 and 239 vide Form No.9 & 10 and Katha No bearing 239 vide Form 9 and Katha No.267 vide Form No.10, present BBMP Katha No.307/226-226, Ward No.149, **Measuring 1500 Sq.feet,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Road;
West by : Property of Karthik Site No.226/1;
North by : Site No.227;
South by : Others Property ;
Item No.6 All that piece and parcel of immovable residential premises bearing **Site No. 227,** Old Village.Panchayat Katha No.238 vide Form 9 and Katha No.278 vide Form No.10, present BBMP Katha No.308/227/227, Ward No.149, **Measuring 1500 Sq.feet,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Road;
West by : Others Property;
North by : Others Property;
South by : Shambuling Site No.226;
All the above mentioned Immovable Properties are Situated at **SORAHUNASE Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** and formerly under the Jurisdiction of Village Panchayat, Bangalore, presently comes under the administrative and territorial jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore:
From its present Owners **Sri.Shambhuling Pawar, Sri.Vishal Pawar Sri.Karthik Pawar and Smt.Girija Pawar,** who acquired the Schedule Property through the registered Absolute Sale Deeds and Gift Deeds: 1. Sale Deed dated 18/06/2015, vide Document No.KRI-1-02065-2015-16, 2. Sale Deed dated 11/09/2023, vide Document No.VRT-1-06577-2023-24 3. Sale Deed dated 11/09/2023, vide Document No.VRT-1-06578-2023-24, 4.Gift Deed dated 22/06/2015, vide Document No.VRT-1-01094-2015-16, 5.Gift Deed dated 22/06/2015, vide Document No.VRT-1-01096-2015-16, and 6.Sale Deed dated 01/08/2011, vide Document No.VRT-1-03601-2011-12.
All Registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar Varthur, Bangalore.
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **10 days** from this day to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims within the above said period. It shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

P. NAGAMUNI REDDY,
Advocate, SNN Associates,
No. 248, 2nd Floor, 10th Main, 1st Block, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru 560043, Land Mark Near Horamavu Signal, Above Canara Bank & HDFC ATM.
Dinesh - 9535948606 & 9008431237

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works (South) Division, Pune - 411 001
Phone No. 020/26121765 Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in & e-mail- integratedpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE NO.111 FOR 2023-2024

Sealed Online **B-1 Tender Format** Tender is/are Invited By The Executive Engineer. Public Works (South) Division, Pune 411 001. (Telephone No. 26121765) Invites bids for Given works from Registered as well as Unregistered contractor in B-1 Tender Format.

Bids document can be downloaded from website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**. Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids without assigning any reasons. Conditional bids will not be accepted.
The detailed Tender Notice can be is available on
1. **Web - www.mahapwd.gov.in (Only Tender Notice)**
2. **https://mahatenders.gov.in (Details of Tender Notice & Detail Documents)**
(Any changes in the NIT will be Corrigendum's published on above website)

Sd/-
(Amol A.Pawar)
Executive Engineer,
Public Work(South) Division, Pune 411 001.

DGIPR/2023-2024/6990

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIVYA Elangovan, D/o No 6924041K Naik Late N Elangovan, R/a No.1157 Balaji Street, RS Palya, MS Nagar, Bangalore-33 hereby state that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Divya in my Father's Army records but my correct name is Divya Elangovan vide affidavit dt: 20.01.2024 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru.

I, BABAJAN Modumur Sheekken, R/o Yenamalapadi, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur District-563123 have changed my name to Babajan Modumur Sheekkn Sabi vide affidavit dt: 22.01.2024 sworn before Notary Ramachandrappa.C, B'luru

I, MAHABOOB Bi, W/o Babajan Modumur Sheekkn Sabi, R/o Yenamalapadi, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur District-563123 have changed my name to Mabubi vide affidavit dt: 22.01.2024 sworn before Notary Ramachandrappa.C, B'luru

I, Vaddi Suseelamma D/O, V Venkata Ramudu R/o D No 6/36, Nethaji Nagar, Somandepalli, Anantapur Dist. 515122. have changed my name to Vaddi Suseela.

LOST & FOUND

I, M.HARSHAVARDHANA Reddy, S/o M. Anand Reddy aged 20 years occu: Student, R/o Teachers Colony, Tank Bund Road, Chintamani Town do hereby solemnly affirm and state in oath a follows:- 1.I, have studied Degree in Kristu Jayanti College during the period from 2020 to 2023 and completed the same. 2. That I have obtained my Transfer Certificate from the while leaving the college. I have lost the said Transfer Certificate while I was travelling in Bus from Bangalore to Chintamani and inspite of my best efforts I am uneable to trace it and it is lost beyond recovery, Hence, I require duplicate copy of said Transfer Certificate for my further studies. 3. I hereby undertake that if the said Original Transfer Certificate is traced out in future I shall surrender the same to concerned authorities for its cancellation. 4, Hence, this sworn Affidavit with a request to issue a Duplicate copy of my Transfer Certificate. Verification:- Solemnly affirmed and signed before me by the deponent admitting of the contents of this affidavit on 17th day of October 2023 at Chintamani.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE, PG building, GB Palya, Bommanahalli, 3.1cr Negotiable, brokers excuse, 7287039697

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE MOTOR SPECIAL DISRICT JUDGE .TIRUCHIRAPALLI , TAMILNADU
M COP 842/2021

1. Vijayalakshmi, 2. Jaya, 3. Balasubramaniyan, 4. Nishanthini, 5. Nivethini
All are some residency
6/12,Aanjineyar nagar, Guntur,
Tiruchirapalli
Petitioners

Vs

Sree Renganathan Motor Service
13.T S P road kalasi palaiyam
Bangalore, kamataga.
3rd Respondent

The aforesaid case M.C.O.P. No. 842/2021 is posted on 29.01.2024 for your appearance. On that day you may appear in person or through your counsel before the HON'BLE **THE MOTAR CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (SDJ)** TIRUCHIRAPALLI, TAMILNADU at 10.30 A.M failing which you will be set Exparty

V. RANGARAJAN M.COM B.L.
Advocate - 98424 96666

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXVIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BENGALURU (CCH-29)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 25320 OF 2023

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.,
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Miss Mansi Singh, D/o Anil Kumar Singh. Age : 24 years **...PLAINTIFF**
AND:
Mr. Dilip Kumar
Aged about 35 years,
Son of Byadarahalli Kadaiah Krishna, R/a 152, 2nd Floor, Bharath Housing Society Layout, Paduka Mandira Road, Lakegowda Nagara, Opp. to BSNL Compound, Uttarahalli Bengaluru- 560 061. **...DEFENDANT**
Summons/Notice through Paper Publication
Mr. Dilip Kumar
Aged about 35 years,
Son of Byadarahalli Kadaiah Krishna, R/a 152, 2nd Floor, Bharath Housing Society Layout, Paduka Mandira Road, Lakegowda Nagara, Opp. to BSNL Compound, Uttarahalli Bengaluru- 560 061. **...DEFENDANT**
WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount **Rs.10,69,599/-** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble XXVIII Addl. City Civil and Session Judge Court, Mayohall (CCH-29) at Bengaluru, in person or by a advocate/ pleader on **01.03.2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the questions of the same. Failing which the matter will be heard and determined as **"EX-PARTE"**
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 17th day of January 2024.
By the order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall Unit
Advocate for Plaintiff
K.N. ARVINDA NAVADA
M/S ELITE LEGAL INC,
Advocates, 425/1/21-2,
1st Floor, 4th Cross,
BTS Main Road, Wilson Garden, Dory
Bengaluru- 560 047.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 58)
O.S. No. 25684/2023

Between :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
MITTAL TOWER, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh
D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
Aged about 24 years
...Plaintiff
AND :
MR. SHANKARA T
S/O. THIMMAIAH
Aged about 30 years
No 14, 4th Floor, 1st Main, Kuvempu Layout, Avalahalli, Virgo Nagar, Bangolore East, Bangolore- 560 049
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
WHEREAS the above name Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs.6,82,168.39/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand one Hundred Sixty Eight and Thirty Nine only)** apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25684/2023** and same is pending adjudication in CCH 58, Before Addl. City Civil and Sessions Court. Mayo hall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 28th day of February 2024 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 18th day of January 2024.
By the order of court
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE- 560001
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New NO.9, OLD NO.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF THE LIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH 60)
O.S. No. 6141/2023

Between :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
having its registered office at, Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 068, through its authorised representative
Mr. Harish E. **...Plaintiff**
AND :
Mrs. Shabeena Banu and aonther ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
1. Mrs. Shabeena Banu
W/o. Imtiaz Pasha,
Aged about 48 years,
Proprietor for G.M. Steel,
2. Mr. Imtiaz Pasha,
S/o. Gucam Mohammed, Aged about 60 years,
Both are Residing at
R/at. No.17, 4th Floor, Agaabd VCCA Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore- 560 027.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 7,06,290.63/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **LIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge** at **Bengaluru (C.C.H-60),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **12/02/2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **18th day of January, 2024.**
By Order Of The Court,
Deputy Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 58)
O.S. No. 25710/2023
Hg. 28.02.2024

BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI BANK LIMITED
MITTAL TOWER, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560 001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Ms. Mansi Singh,
Aged about 24 years
D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh
V/S
MR. MAHENDRA M. J.
Summons to Defendants
Mr. MAHENDRA M. J.
S/o. Mr. Jakanna,
Aged 39 years, No. 01, 7th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Rajeshwari Nagar, Laggere Peenya Post, Bangalore- 560 058.
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 6,26,857 (Rupees Six Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of p.a, in **O.S. No. 25710/2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 58,** Before 57th Addl. City Civil sessions Judge, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 28th day of February, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the **18th** day of **January, 2024.**
By order of the court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayohall Unit
BENGALURU- 560 005.
FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF THE LIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-60)
O.S. NO. 5836/2023

Between:
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main Road, Bengaluru- 560 068, through its authorised representative
Mr. Harish E. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Rangaswamy N. M.
...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant :
Mr. Rangaswamy N. M.
S/o. Mari Gowda,
Aged About 45 Years,
R/at. No. 432, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Vijayananda Nagar, Nandini Layout,
Near Rama Temple,
Bangalore- 560 096.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 5,42,651.87/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-60), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **12.02.2024** at **11:00** AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **18th** day of **January 2024 at Bangalore.**
By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi)
Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri

Telephone No.08473-253311 e-mail:acyadgir@gmail.com

No.REV/LAQ/NH/02/2023-24, Dated :20-01-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under section 3G and subsection (3) and (4) of the NH act 1956

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways, Central Government vide India Gazette Notification No. S.O. 286 (E), Dated: 18.01.2024 declared the acquisition of land indicated the schedule here under for building (Two laning/ four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 70.900 to Km. 79.650 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Yadgiri in the state of Karnataka.

Under the provision of section 3G (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the NH act 1956 (48 of 1956), it is here by informed to the land owners and any interested persons whose lands will be acquired for building of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 70.900 to Km. 79.650 (Kalaburagi–Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Kalaburagi to appear in person or by an agent of by a legal practioner and submit their claims for determining/awarding compensation, along with copies of the following relevant documents to the following office and to state the nature of their respective intrest in such lands within 07days from the Date of publication of this public notice.

Present year RTC, 2) 14 years EC, 3) Mutation copy, 4) Sale/partition/other deeds of title, 5) Tax paid receipts copy, 6) Family Tree, 7) Land Converssion order certified copy, 8) Panchayath Khatha copy and other relevant documents etc.,

If the Land owners of land indicated in the schedule here under fails to submit the aforesaid documents within the stipulated time, in such case Land compensation will be determined based on the available documents in this office. Further it is informed that not to carry any Crop Growing or any Development activity now onwards in the respect of lands specified in the Schedule as per the said 3(D) notification vested in the Central Government, also if Crops any Grown or carried any Development activity will not be considered for Compensation.

Sl. No	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Village	Date & Time	Place of receiving Application and Documents
1	Yadgiri	Mudnal	07.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	Office of the Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer, (National Highway Zone Kalaburagi), Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha,Yadgiri
2	Yadgiri	Bhimnagar	08.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	
3	Yadgiri	Yadgiri (B)	09.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	
4	Yadgiri	Chamnalli	10.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	
5	Yadgiri	Bandalli	12.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	Office of the Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer, (National Highway Zone Kalaburagi), Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri
6	Yadgiri	Dastrabad	13.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	
7	Yadgiri	Yadgiri (K)	14.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	
8	Yadgiri	Mundarga	15.02.2024 from 11:00AM to 01:00PM	

Sd/- (Dr. Hampanna, KAS)
Assistant Commissioner and
Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi), Yadgiri
Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 18th Janaury, 2024

S.O. 286(E).– Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O.4854 (E) dated 08.11.2023, published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (Two Laning/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.150, in the stretch of land from Km 70.900 to Km 79.650 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir-Kadechur Section) in the district of KALABURAGI in the State of KARNATAKA .

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Samyukta Karnataka" and "The Hindu" both dated 18.11.2023; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent authority; And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 70.900 to Km. 79.650 (Gulbarga- Wadi- Yadgir Section) of the National Highway No. 150 in the state of KARNATAKA

State: KARNATAKA **District: YADGIR**

Sl. No	Survey/ Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectare)	Name of the land owner/ Interested persons
Taluk: Yadgir					**Village: Chamanahalli**
1	250	Private	Dry	1.2748	Hanmanth S/o Yamanappa, Mallayya S/o Margappa, Bhimraya S/o Hanmanth Tippamma W/o Jambanna
2	252	Private	NA/Dry	0.9308	Sabanna S/o Husenappa, Durgappa S/o Mahedevappa, Durgappa S/o Hanmanth, Siddanna S/o Channabasappa Sir Patil, Basamma W/o Amareshwara, Sabanna S/o Husenappa, Mahadevamma W/o Sabanna
3	261	Private	Dry	0.8600	Chandrappa S/o Rajappa, Sanbasappa S/o Rajappa,Doddabasappa S/o Rajappa
4	71	Common (Private / Government)	NA/Dry	0.3237	Tippibai W/o Pandu, Chandar S/o Bhali, Dharma S/o Gangya, Ramesh S/o Dharma, Gobrya S/o Dharma, Vitthal S/o Subash, Gopal, Chandar, Pomu, Shankar, Bhalya, Jairam, Santhosh, Ashok, Kailas, Vilas, Khema S/o Bhima Rathod mudnal, Lachmanna S/o Narayana Rathod, Valibai, Shantibai, Parampok Government, Bhimappa S/o Balappa Mudnal, Sabanna S/o Nagappa Chamnalli, Reserved for Construction of Yadgiri District Education and Training organization DET Building, Principal Secretary Rural Development, Deputy Commissioner and President Subregional Science, Kitturu Rani chenamma Residential School Building, RTO office Building and Driving Track construction, Yadgiri District Training Organisation Building, Principal Government ITI Yadgiri, Parampok Government, Namya, Lachya, Madya, Rupla, Jainabai, Dharmya, Ramu, Shankarya, Khemya, Executive Engineer major Work Division KPTCL Kalaburagi, parampok, Deputy Director (Administration) and District planning Cordination officer, Sitabai
5	76	Private	NA/Dry	0.3035	Sajjan S/o Tukaram, Sakya S/o Lachma Nayak, Devya S/o Lachya, Sakrya S/o Lachya, Ghenibai W/o Pandu Pawar, Mohammed Fayaz Aman S/o Mohammed Sadiq
6	64	Private	NA/Dry	1.4367	Ningappa S/o Sanmukappa, Durgappa S/o Sanmukappa, Lakshmi W/o Ramchandrarao Dillikar, Gulamsadik Hasan S/o Mahaboobsab Badal, Gunjalmma W/o Basanna, Ningappa S/o Sabanna, Sharanappa S/o Sabanna, Mahadevi W/o Sidramappa, Durgamma, Ningamma, Sharanappa, Mohammed Alisab S/o Syed Sab, Gulam Dastgiri S/o Mohammed Ali Sab Manikbai Hattikuni,
7	68	Common (Private / Government)	Dry	1.5783	Hattikuni Project, Mallappa S/o Kariyappa, Nagappa S/o Amarappa Kumbar, Umesh S/o Amarappa, Sangamma W/o Amarappa Kumbar Gudagunti, Sabavva W/o Basappa, Raghavendra S/o Venkatarao Hanchate, Shabhana Ajmi, Mallappa
Village: Mudnal					
8	143	Private	Dry	0.5969	Sunita Patil W/o Rudragouda Patil, Pandu S/o Subas
9	145	Private	NA/Dry	1.2949	Punambai W/o Dinesh Kumar Jain, Mahendra S/o Shantilal Jain
Village:Bhimnagar					
10	10	Private	Dry	1.0521	Gopya S/o Tukya Rathod, Surji S/o Tukya Rathod, Tejya S/o Tukya Rathod, Babu S/o Surji, Rudragouda S/o Basanna Gouda Patil,
11	11	Private	Dry	0.3035	Sajanya S/o Tukaram, Vijayabai Gopal, Chandar S/o Iasyar, Purya S/o Bhajya, Gopya S/o Laskar, Chandra S/o Laskar, Mothibai, Surji, Tejya, Goutham S/o Ashok Kumar Gandi, Irya S/o Kirya, Abdul Pasha S/o Khasim, Gannu S/o Surju, Kumar S/o Surji,
12	13	Private	Dry	0.4957	Pomu Ramu, Shankar S/o Ramu, Jairam S/o Ramu, Bhali S/o Ramu, Somu, Shanibai, Prakash, Mothibai, Aliya Badar Sahid W/o Yahavil Mohammed Al Khabesi, Suresh S/o Gireppa Kotimani, Rajashri Patneth, Mallikarjun, Hanmantamma Urf Hanmakshi W/o Yankanna Shampurhalli, Channappa S Alipur S/o Sidramppa Alipur, Abdul Rauf Sagari S/o Abdul Baseer Sagari, Ashok Kumar S/o Shrinivaslu, Yankareddy S/o Sidramreddy
13	14	Government	Dry	0.1618	Sarkari Parampok, Public Graveyard
14	4	Private	NA/Dry	0.8397	Hunya S/o yankappa, Ramu S/o Devya Rathod, Punya S/o Tejya, Dinesh Kumar Jain S/o Prakashchand Jain, Mohammed Tajuddin S/o Mohammed Nasiruddin, Suresh Chavan S/o Hiru Chavan, Khursheed Azar S/o Abdul Salam Chowdari, Khursheed Alam S/o Abdul Salam Chowdari,
15	5	Private	Dry	0.8397	Mohammed Yousuf Javid S/o Mohammed Ibrahim, Namya S/o Dhavarya, Dashrath S/o Rupala Rathod, Khemu S/o Lalu Rathod, Suresh S/o Hiru Chavan
16	9	Private	Dry	0.3338	Sunita W/o Rudragouda, Punya S/o Rekhya, Khemu S/o Bhali, Lakshmibai W/o Ramu Pawar, Shanibai W/o Laxman Pawar,
Village: Yadgiri (K)					
17	410	Private	Dry	0.8397	Mahadevappa S/o Ramalingappa, Chandrashekar S/o Ramalingappa
18	411	Private	Dry	0.5766	Suresh S/o Hanmanth, Sabappa S/o Hanmanth, Basavaraj S/o Hanmanth
19	415	Private	Dry	0.6879	Suresh S/o Balayya, Vasudev S/o Balayya Police
20	416	Private	Dry	0.6474	Basavanthraya S/o Sharanappagouda, Ravindragouda S/o Mallannagouda, Vinayak S/o Mallannagouda,
21	417	Private	Dry	0.3743	Umadevi W/o Mallangouda, Basavanthrayagouda S/o Sharanappagouda
22	419	Private	Dry	0.3743	Nagamma W/o Channappa, Mohammed Najir Ahmed S/o Manjur Ahmed, Kutuboddin S/o Maktumsab Chinnakhar
23	420	Private	Dry	0.4654	Nagamma W/o Channappa, Mohammed Najir Ahmed S/o Manjur Ahmed, Kutuboddin S/o Maktumsab Chinnakhar
24	421	Private	Dry	0.2428	Neelamma W/o Doddappa gouda
25	422	Private	Dry	0.8599	Mallikarjun S/o Ninganna, Kaveri W/o Basavaraj Needle
26	426	Private	Dry	0.3743	Mahadevamma W/o Channamallappa, Neelamma W/o Rachangouda
Village: Dastrabad					
27	1	Private	NA/Dry	0.8296	Narsappa S/o Durgappa, Lachmavva W/o Saibanna, Anasamma W/o Saibanna, Sharannappa S/o Dodda Mallappa, Suryaprakash S/o Dodda Mallappa, Ningappa S/o Dodda Mallappa, Yamanamma W/o Mallanna, Chandrareddy S/o Mallappa
28	22	Private	Dry	0.3035	Manjunath S/o Virupanna Levadi, Shashikala W/o Dundappa Levadi
29	23	Private	Dry	0.0809	Monappa S/o Basavaraj, Sabreddy S/o Chandappa
30	30	Private	Dry	0.5261	Mallanna S/o Sharanappa
31	31	Private	Dry	0.0826	Rahim Bi W/o Hasansab, Rukum S/o Hasansab, Syed S/o Hasansab, Khashimsab S/o Khajapeer, Hasansab S/o Syedsab, Dastagiri S/o Khajapeer,
32	35	Private	Dry	0.7588	Mohammed Khasimsab S/o Khajabai Darji, Khasimsab S/o Bhashumiya Darji, Sharanappa S/o Nagappa, Shivayya S/o Bhalayya police, Sushilamma W/o Shivasharanappa, Nagamma W/o Shivashankrayya, Chandrakanth S/o Pompayya
33	58	Common (Private / Government)	Dry	0.4148	Parampok, S Vishwaradya S/o Sugunashilvanth, Bhimavva W/o Mallappa, Sharanappa S/o Saibanna
34	64	Private	Dry	0.8296	Jagadish S/o Basavaraj Jain, Rakesh S/o Basavaraj Jain,
35	65	Private	Dry	1.1331	Khaja Mohinuddin S/o Khasimsab sab, Bhimaraya S/o Lachmana Dodamani Devindrappa S/o Lachmana Dodamani, Subash S/o Lachmana Dodamani,
36	66	Private	Dry	0.7183	Shamsiya begum D/o Mohammed Abdul Hai
Village: Mundarga					
37	13	Private	NA/Dry	0.8397	Meghanath S/o Yankappa Mullagasi, Devanand S/o Devid Dasan, Nagaraj Gouda S/o Krishnagouda Manasagal, Chaganlal S/o Chougaramji Prajapath
38	14	Private	Dry	0.0809	Tasneem fathima W/o Aslam
39	15	Private	Dry	1.4062	Shivaraj S/o Chandaramappa, Devakamma W/o Mallikarjun, Sabanna S/o Mallanna, Basavaraj S/o Shivasharanappa Jandeja, President Mukambika Education Society,
40	18	Private	Dry	0.9712	Harish S/o Ashok B Guttedar
41	19	Private	NA/Dry	1.0420	Siraj Ul-Haq S/o Najir Ahmed Sab, Harish A Guttedar S/o Ashok B
42	20	Private	Dry	0.1517	Shantamma W/o Gurulingappa
43	43	Private	Dry	0.1214	Bhimanna S/o Mallayya, Hanmanth S/o Mallayya, Devappa S/o Mallayya, Sabanna S/o Bhimanna
44	44	Private	Dry	0.0708	Gangubai W/o late Buggappa Hajama
45	441	Private	Dry	0.2428	Hanmanth S/o mallappa, Venkatesh S/o Desai Kollur, Manikrao S/o Raghunath Rao Dadang, Basavaraj S/o Ashappa Pujari, Nagappa S/o Ashappa Pujari, Mallikarjun S/o Ashappa Pujari, Ramanna S/o Ashappa Pujari, Lakshmanna S/o Ashappa Pujari, Hanmanth S/o Ashappa Pujari, Ningappa S/o Narsappa Kurubaru, Sabanna S/o Mallappa Kinikeri, Somlingappa S/o Galeppa. Mallappa S/o Galeppa, Mallikarjun S/o Narasappa
46	442	Private	Dry	0.9105	President Tanjimul Muslimin and Baitulmaal, Yadgiri
47	45	Private	Dry	1.5479	Hanmanthraya S/o Kadappa Kattimani, Venkatesh S/o Rukmayya kattimani, Laxman S/o Bhimanna Badad, Pomu, Mothilal, Mallikarjun, Ishwarappa, Pomu S/o Mothilal Chavan
48	46	Private	Dry	1.1938	Anilkumar S/o Buggappa Hadpad, Basvarajappa S/o Suganna Arli, Bandeshwara S/o Suganna Arli, Gangamma W/o Gangappa, Shivaputrappa S/o Sharanappa
49	48	Private	Dry	1.0825	Kantappa S/o Jakkappa, Nagappa S/o Ningappa Kasabi, Mallayya S/o Sabanna Kasabe, Sanna Hanmanth S/o Gangaram
50	49	Private	Dry	0.0404	Saleem Sab S/o Hasansab, Khasimsab S/o Salim sab Badeger
51	68	Private	NA/Dry	0.2630	Harish A Guttedar S/o Ashok B Guttedar
Village: Yadgir (B)					
52	671	Government	Dry	1.3152	Gayrana Government, Backward Classes Welfare (2 Residential Plot) Department Pre and Post-Metric Boys Residential Hostel purpose, Managing Director Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited Bangalore, Managing Director Karnataka Thanda Development Corporation Limited Bangalore,
53	673	Private	Dry	0.0607	Mallikarjun S/o Linganna Kattimani
54	674	Private	NA/Dry	1.8210	Balraj S/o Ashok B Guttedar
55	675	Private	Dry	0.1922	Sabavva W/o Ramanna Thanedar, Gurumurthy Shivacharya S/o Malendra Shivacharya
56	677	Private	Dry	0.3743	Hanmanth S/o Yankappa, Husanappa S/o Yankappa Telgur
57	678	Private	Dry	1.3152	Ghanshamdas S/o Dhamodar Rathi, Shaik Davud S/o Gulam Dastgir, Mahendra gouda S/o Rajanna Gouda, Parshuram S/o Ambanna Shegurkar, Balraj S/o Ashok Guttedar
			Total	39.7892	

[F.No:1146/3D]

DIP/Yadagiri/288/MCA/2023-24 **Sd/- ABHAY JAIN, Dy.Secy.**

Department of AYUSH
Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Telephone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139.
E-mail: directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/75/Procurement/2023-24 Date: 20.01.2024

Tender Notification
(Through Kpp Portal only)

The e-tender in Two Document Systems invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bengaluru for the Data Entry Operator workers under State Scheme, as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999-2000 Rules there under. The Tender document will be available from **23.01.2024 at 5:30 p.m.** the e-procurement portal of Karnataka **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The last day of bid submission is **12.02.2024 upto 5:30 p.m.** For further details may be viewed at above website:

Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Directorate of Ayush, Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-560 009.

DIPR/CP/RO3196/AAPL/2023-24

Bangalore - Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road,
Bengaluru - 560 009
Tel : 080 22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-03/48/2022-23/1589 Date: 23.01.2024

PUBLICATION

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Punith gowda S/o Late Nagaraju.M has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Industrial (Crusher)" purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No:183/3 Extent 01Acre-17Guntas (Including 0Acre-07Guntas Kallumarati 'A' Kharab) of Hangarahalli Village, Arakere Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If the M Sand Crusher Units establish in the proposed land, the Local Villagers and nearby villagers, town and city people shall get quality and discounted rates on the M Sand production for constructing their House and other public related Road Works, Bridges and Buildings. M Sand shall be easily available.
2. During and after establishing the M Sand Crusher Unit, hundreds of workers shall get employment Local Villagers and nearby villagers, town and city People shall get driving jobs for tractors, Canters, Tippers to earn their and family living Both Employment and Business shall be benefited by them.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/he objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. An objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

DIPR/CP/3207/AKAR/2023-24 **Sd/- Member Secretary B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru**

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Last date 23rd February 2024

THE MYSORE SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sugar Town, Mandya-571 402.
MSCo/MM/ 58/2023-24 DATE: 23-01 -2024

SHORT TERM e-RE TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Mysore Sugar Company Ltd., Mandya is invited Short term Tender through e-procurement portal. Tenders from the interested manufacturers/ dealers / suppliers for following supply / Service. (Turn Key Job).

Sl.No : 01. Description : Selection of Agency for out sourcing of Manpower for Repair and Maintenance, Operation and maintenance of 5000 TCD Sugar plant and 30 MW Co-Gen Plant. (Turn Key Job). Quantity : 01 Job. EMD of Rs. : **10,00,000.00 (R & M) Rs. 15,00,000.00 (O&M).** Tenders can be downloading from **24.01.2024 to 31.01.2024 @5.00 PM.** The date of opening of technical bid on **02.02.2024** and commercial bid opening on **05.02.2024 a**t Managing Director office Bangalore. For further details contact e-procurement web site **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** No. **080-25501216/ 25501227 9448238763/9886470666**. Managing Director reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason and Managing Director decision in this regard final and binding.

Sd/-GENERAL MANAGER

DIPR/AD-MDY/KSMCA/466/2023-24

Kannan asked to repay extra *tasdik*

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Endowment Department has served a notice to Hiremagaluru Kannan, the priest of Kodanda Ramachandra Swamy temple at Hiremagaluru in Chikkamagaluru, asking him to return the excess amount of ₹4.74 lakh that was credited to his account between 2013 and 2022.

Later in the day, Minister for Transport and Endowment Ramalinga Reddy stated that the notice served to the priest would be withdrawn. He had instructed the officers to hold an inquiry against the tahsildar and the officials responsible for the wrong payment and recover the excess amount from them.

The notice, served by the Chikkamagaluru tahsildar to the priest on December 2, 2023, stated that the government released a total *tasdik* of ₹3.36 lakh to the temple. However, what had been credited to the priest's account during this period was ₹8.1 lakh. The officer instructed the priest to return the excess amount (₹4.74 lakh) to the temple's account. The notice stated that the total revenue from the temple in that period (2013-2022) was ₹9.34 lakh, while the total expenditure was ₹12.96 lakh, which included power charges, allowance for rathotsava, and the priest's payment. The priest got a monthly pay of ₹7,500 during this period. As the particular temple recorded annual revenue of less than ₹5 lakh, it belongs to the C-category. The government would not grant any amount besides the *tasdik*.

Mr. Kannan, speaking to the media on Tuesday, stated that he had been asked to return the amount as the revenue of the temple was much less than the expenses towards *tasdik* and maintenance of the temple. He maintained that the State government earned *hundi* collections because of the efforts of priests like him.

Stopped in 2022

The department stopped the payment of *tasdik* to the temple in March 2022, as excess amount had already been paid to the priest, according to sources. Officials who were in the department in 2013, enhanced the payment to the priest by mistake. The same continued till 2022, when the officers noticed the mistake.

Govt. to relieve retired officers appointed as advisers, consultants

It is estimated that across departments, boards, and corporations, hundreds of retired employees have found re-employment; the government is trying to reduce costs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an effort to reduce expenditure, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, has asked all departments to relieve retired officials appointed as consultants and advisers by departments with immediate effect.

The order was issued by Chief Secretary Rajaneesh Goyal on Monday.

The order said such officials have also been provided benefits, which is causing a burden on the State exchequer. FILE PHOTO

'Unnecessary expenditure'

It is estimated that across departments, boards and corporations, hundreds of retired employees have found re-employment, and the latest order could affect them. The Congress government, which is implementing the five guarantees, is taking steps to cut unnecessary expenditure, government sources said.

The order said that it had been noticed that retired officials have been appointed by creating unnecessary posts and sometimes even appointed for Group A posts. They have also been provided vehicles and other benefits, which is causing a burden on the State exchequer. Besides, it is found that efficiency, quality and accountability are lacking from these retired officials appointed as advisors and consultants. The order directed the departments to post serving officials to such posts where the vacancy is created.

Pros and cons

Meanwhile, a retired official from Department of Public Works acknowledged that there could be unnecessary creation of posts and appointment not based on need. He, however, said that several external funded schemes or projects such as the World Bank-aided projects or the Asian Development Bank funded projects require experienced consultants and in many cases the World Bank mandates appointment of those with experience in working in World Bank funded schemes be appointed.

Also in the Department of Water Resources, expertise is required in understanding and handling interstate water disputes as well as other interstate disputes. "The order could have exempted such posts that are required instead of a blanket order to relieve everyone."

Beer to become dearer to boost excise revenue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

When the hike becomes effective, a 650 ml bottle of beer will be dearer by around ₹8 to ₹10. FILE PHOTO

There is some bad news for beer guzzlers. Riding on the increased sales of beer this financial year, the State government has proposed another hike in the additional excise duty, the second such hike this year. Industry sources said that when the hike becomes effective, a 650 ml bottle of beer will be dearer by around ₹8 to ₹10.

The notification has been issued recently to increase the Additional Excise Duty from 185% to 195%, and the new rates are expected to come into force as early as next week. The draft proposal to hike the additional excise duty on beer has been notified on January 20, and public objection has to been invited before January 27. The new rates are expected to come into force after the notification has been issued to amend Schedule D of Karnataka Excise (Excise Duties and Fees) Rules, 1968.

Increase in sales

The sale of beer in Karnataka for the period between April and December 2003 has increased by 15.59% compared to the corresponding period last year with a total of 324.32 lakh carton boxes sold against 280.58 lakh carton boxes sold in same period in 2022. In contrast, the sale of IML grew by just 1.69% in the same period with a total of 533.04 lakh carton boxes sold this year against 524.19 lakh carton boxes sold last year.

Excise duty on both categories were increased in the first budget of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in this term. By the end of the third quarter, excise revenue collected in the State was ₹30,620 crore against the target of ₹36,000 crore for the year. Excise revenue collection in the same period during last financial year was ₹26,987 crore. According to government sources, the additional excise duty is being increased to boost excise revenue.

Reasons for jump

The Secretary of the Federation of Wine Merchants' Associations of Karnataka B. Govindraj Hegde said that beer sales increased for many reasons including big schemes offered by beer companies, introduction of low-cost beers and with IML becoming expensive, many turned into low cost beers. He said that the reduction in excise duty on IML could increase IML sales, and action should be taken on sale of illegal liquor brought from cross border that could boost revenue. "Since 2013, excise duty in State has already increased eight times, including twice in the same financial year during COVID-19."

After the hikes between 2017 and 2023, the lower and middle segment of IML in slabs between 1 and 8 shows an increase by 1.46% while the premium segment between slab 9 and 18 has reported a decline by 1.49 % as they became dearer and many shifted to beer or lower segments of IML

Inclusion of candidates who worked against Chief Minister causes delay in appointments to boards and corporations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As uncertainty continued over appointments to the government-owned boards and corporations, Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday hit out at the party's Central leaders, particularly the general secretary in-charge of Karnataka, for preparing the list without consultations with State leaders.

Sources in the party told *The Hindu* that the inclusion of a few names of candidates who "worked against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah" in his constituency during the 2023 Assembly elections had led to delay in the release of the list of appointments.

Mr. Siddaramaiah and KPCC Chief and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar held several rounds of meetings with AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, and AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal in Delhi and Bengaluru. Apparently, the inclusion of names of some people, who had worked against the Chief Minister, by the Central leaders has irked Mr. Siddaramaiah and this is believed to have caused the delay in issuing orders for the appointment of 36 legislators and 39 party workers for the boards and corporations.

Meanwhile, former KPCC chief Parameshwara said the party's Central leaders prepared the list without consulting State leaders. "We know who worked for the party over the years in districts. They [Central leaders] don't know. The Chief Minister and KPCC president should be told to hold discussions with district leaders and identify party workers suitable for appointments for boards and corporations. However, the general secretaries are doing it directly and so there is some delay," said Mr. Parameshwara.

Replying to a question, Mr. Parameshwara said, "The Central leaders did not consult me or asked me. I know the whole State. I have been the party president for eight years, I know who are real party workers in each district for many years and the last Assembly elections."

When the reporters sought the Chief Minister's reply on Mr. Parameshwara's comment, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "It is difficult to consult all leaders. I will speak to Mr. Parameshwara."

A few days ago, Mr Shivakumar said the list of candidates for appointments has been prepared and orders would be issued at any moment. The legislators and leaders who have been expecting the appointment orders before the Makar Sankranti festival, have been disappointed over the delay, party sources said.

INBRIEF

Women dairy farmers felicitated in Bengaluru

Five dairy women farmers from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala were felicitated for their entrepreneurial zeal of producing milk ranging from 60 liters per day to 400 liters per day, at an event organised by the Southern Zone of the Indian Dairy Association at Bengaluru. The awardees are: A.N. Rajeshwari from Karnataka, Aligeneni Sree Padma from Andhra Pradesh, Dabbu Padma from Telangana, Leema Roselein from Kerala and Parimala Vijayaramesh from Tamil Nadu.

BJP meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A meeting of the BJP State Executive Committee will be held in Bengaluru on January 27. Disclosing this to mediapersons in Bengaluru on Tuesday, BJP State General Secretary P. Rajeev said the meeting would be held at Bengaluru Palace Grounds from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on that day.

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav would be attending the meeting which would be presided over by State president B.Y. Vijayendra. The meeting was supposed to be held last week.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

07th Death Anniversary

Ever loving memory of
Shri. A. Ramakrishnan
(GM: BPCL, State head: RIL, CEO: Gapco east Africa)
who is missed every single day;
DOD: 24-01-2017
Fondly remembered by
Mrs. Lalitha Ramakrishnan (wife)
Arjun (son) and
Athulya (daughter-in-law)

Government of Karnataka.
(PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BIDAR

NO: EE/PWD//DIVN/BDR/KKRDB/JE-5/ 2023-24/2997 Date: 22.01.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDERS.

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the WORK_INDENT NO. PWD/ 2023-24/BD/RD /OW//WORK_INDENT (General 07) 7155, 7709, 7711, 7740, 7710, 7669, 7777. (SC reserve 02) 7142, 7714. (ST reserve 01) 7679. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum Rs. 17.91 Lakhs & Maximum Rs. 65.72 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Govt of Karnataka Viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 22.01.2024. Tenders must be submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before 16.00 hours on 29.01.2024. Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Note :- Turn over certificate Without UDI Number will not be considered.

DIPR/Bidar/251/KSMC&A/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Bidar.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD, KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi-585105, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/Tender/1275/2023-24 Date : 22-01-2024

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-

1) Name and description of work : **KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/ Chc_Chp_Wadi_KMP /AMRUT2/ 2023-24/1273 Date : 22-01-2024,** Providing Water Supply Scheme to Chincholi town, Chittapur town, Wadi town & Kamalapur town in Kalaburagi District Under AMRUT 2.0 including O&M for a Period of 5 Years (including 1 Year Defects Liability Period) through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Mode (Lumpsum) - No Variation **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/ 2023-24 / WS / WORK_INDENT129),** Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **13554.69** (Excluding GST), Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs) : 1,59,95,000/-, Eligibility of Contractor : Eligible Contractors, Period of completion including monsoon in months: 18 Months (Eighteen)

2) Name and description of work : **KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/SND-SRG-KRD/AMRUT2/2023-24/ 1274 Date : 22-01-2024,** Providing Water Supply Scheme to Sandur, Siruguppa and Kurugodu towns under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode". (lumpsum tender – No variation)". **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2023-24 / WS / WORK_INDENT130),** Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **13078.17 (Excluding GST),** Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs) : 1,54,32,000/-, Eligibility of Contractor : Eligible Contractors, Period of completion including monsoon in months: 24 Months (Twenty Four), 3) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **09-02-2024 at 12:30 Hours**, 4) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **21-02-2024 Up to 17:30 Hours**, 5) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **23-02-2024 After 11:00 Hours**, 6) Addl. information: Chief Engineer Office, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi – 585102. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 7) Address of E-portail: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Kalaburagi/720/KSMC&A/2023-24

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

INNOVATE KARNATAKA — GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA — K-tech

HIRING OF MANPOWER RESOURCES

Karnataka Innovation & Technology Society (KITS) is the implementation arm of the Department of El., IT, Bt and S&T to oversee the activities related to innovation and technology in the State of Karnataka. KITS is the nodal agency to implement schemes & programs under the IT, BT, AVGC, ESDM, Startup Policies etc.,

KITS intends to hire the resource on contract basis and the details are given below:-

Sl. No.	Designation	Minimum Qualification/ Experience	Remuneration (Consolidated)
1	Assistant Manager-1 Industries Partnership and Monitoring (IT) **No of Posts: 01**	Full-time MBA/PGDM/PGDBA or BE/BA/ MA/BSc/MSc/BCom/MCom, Minimum 3 years of work experience of working with IT/ITeS industry with good communication & analytical skills.	Rs. 45,000/-
2	Assistant Manager-2 (IT) **No of Posts: 01**	Full-time MBA/PGDM/PGDBA or BE/BA/ MA/BSc/MSc/BCom/MCom, Minimum 3 years of work experience of working with IT/ITeS industry with good communication & analytical skills.	Rs. 45,000/-
3	Assistant Manager-5 Industries Partnership and Mentoring (Startup) **No of Posts: 01**	Full-time MBA/PGDM/PGDBA or BE/BA/ MA/BSc/MSc/BCom/MCom, Minimum 3 years of work experience of working with IT/ITeS industry with good communication & analytical skills.	Rs. 45,000/-
4	Assistant Manager-(Startup) **No of Posts: 01**	Full-time MBA/PGDM/PGDBA or BE/BA/ MA/BSc/MSc/BCom/MCom, Minimum 3 years of work experience of working with IT/ITeS industry with good communication & analytical skills.	Rs. 45,000/-
5	Asst. Manager -3 (BT) **No of Posts: 01**	Ph.D. in Life Sciences: 03+ Years of work experience in Biotech/Life Science in Government sector and implementation of Biotechnology skilling programs.	Rs.60,000/-
6	Assistant Manager -7 (AVGC) **No of Posts: 01**	Full-time MBA/PGDM/PGDBA or BE/BA/ MA/BSc/MSc/BCom/MCom, or Bachelor degree in Fine Arts with Minimum 3 years of work experience of working with IT/ITeS or AVGC industry with good communication & analytical skills.	Rs. 45,000/-
7	Assistant Executive-1 (IT) **No of Posts: 01**	Full-time MBA/PGDM/PGDBA or BE/BA/ MA/BSc/MSc/BCom/MCom, Minimum 2 years of work experience of working with IT/ITeS industry with good communication & analytical skills.	Rs. 40,000/-

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the above posts with age limit less than 50 years. The posts are contractual and for a maximum period of 11 months (Can be extended based on performance of the candidate and management decision).

The detailed job descriptions and the job application format are available at https://itbtst.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible candidates are required to send their updated bio-data and the completed application form, specifying the applied job designation, along with a recent passport-size color photo to itbt.kitshr@gmail.com on or before 08-02-2024 by 5:00 pm. Interviews will be arranged for shortlisted candidates only. The Selection Committee's decision will be final and binding

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
BMTC Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block, 4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bangalore-560027. India Phone : 080-22231006/8. https://itbtst.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/3179/AKAR/2023-24

How Mysore Sandal soap's century-old legacy was threatened by counterfeit operation

The KSDL got to know about the manufacturers of fake products, and how they were impacting the Mysore Sandal soap company's business after a recent raid in Hyderabad

EXPLAINER

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The new products of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited launched at Vidhana Soudha on January 20. K. MURALI KUMAR

Story so far

The renowned State-owned soap brand, Mysore Sandal Soap, with a century-long history, confronted a significant challenge from counterfeit manufacturers. This illegal production of the brand resulted in an estimated loss of ₹500 crore to ₹600 crore for the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) over the past decade.

The KSDL got to know about the manufacturers of fake products and how they were impacting the Mysore Sandal soap company's business after a recent raid on the fake Mysore Sandal soap manufacturing unit in Hyderabad by KSDL officials and Telangana police officials.

How were the culprits traced?

On January 12, on the directions of Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil and KSDL Chairman, B. Prem Kumar, the manager of KSDL's Hyderabad branch reported to the Telangana police about the Minister being informed regarding a counterfeiting operation in Hyderabad.

Before reaching out to the police, officials said that the KSDL carried out an investigation into counterfeit products and the production facility. First, they bought fake products worth ₹5 lakh and checked them.

Even though they couldn't find where the fake products were made, the KSDL staff smartly ordered soaps worth ₹25 lakh. Pretending to pick up the order from the unit, KSDL officials along with police went to the place where the fake soaps were being made.

Mysore Sandal soap. K. MURALI KUMAR

During the operation, Hyderabad residents Rakesh Jain and Mahaveer Jain were apprehended and charged for the production of counterfeit Mysore Sandal Soap and other KSDL products.

The individuals operating the counterfeit Mysore Sandal soap manufacturing unit were also involved in the production of other well-known branded products, including ghee and coconut oil, according to officials.

How harmful was the counterfeit product?

During the operation, police seized 20 cartons containing three-soap packs, totaling 1,800 pieces, each weighing 150 grams, as well as 47 cartons totally having 9,400 pieces of soap, each piece weighing 75 grams. Additionally, empty packing boxes for 150-gram Mysore Sandal Soap (400 pieces), and empty packing boxes for 75-gram Mysore Sandal Soap (400 pieces) were seized.

The KSDL officials collected samples of the fake products and sent them to the laboratory to find out their contents.

After examining the samples in the KSDL laboratory, officials found that the counterfeit soaps didn't have high-quality sandal oil and contained heavy metals.

According to officials, the heavy metals contained in the fake brand products are potentially carcinogenic.

Why Congress has accused BJP workers of running the counterfeit unit

This issue turned political when Priyank Kharge, the Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, IT, and Biotechnology, claimed that the two people behind the fake soap production are prominent BJP leaders in Telangana.

Mr. Kharge claimed that they have links to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Telangana BJP MLA Raja Singh, Chittapur BJP leader Manikant Rathod and BJP office-bearer Vittal Nayak, who is the son of former MLA Valmiki Nayak.

What is the legacy of Mysore Sandal Soap?

The Karnataka government-owned KSDL, with a legacy of 107 years, is renowned for producing soap infused with pure sandalwood oil.

According to its website, the Government Sandalwood Oil factory was established in 1916 in Mysuru (then Mysore) by Maharaja Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wadiyar and Diwan Sir M. Visvesvaraya to extract oil from sandalwood.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Heavy and Medium Industries minister M.B. Patil, launching Karnataka Soap Detergent Limited (KSDL) 21 products, at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru on January 20
K. MURALI KUMAR

In 1918, a foreign guest presented a rare gift pack of soaps made using sandalwood oil produced in India, to the Maharaja of Mysore. This sparked the idea of utilising the available natural sandalwood oil for making soap in Mysore.

According to KSDL, S.G. Shastri, who was a qualified Industrial chemist, was sent to London for advanced training in soap and perfumery technology. The era of Mysore Sandal Soap began on the return of Mr Shastri from London. He developed sandal perfume, which was considered as a landmark in the field of soap perfuming in those days. The first indigenous sandal soap was produced and introduced in the market under the brand name of Mysore Sandal Soap in 1918.

How KSDL expanded business into other products?

After founding the factory in Bengaluru and producing soaps under the brand Mysore Sandal Soap with sandalwood oil as the main ingredient, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar simultaneously established a facility to distill sandalwood oil from wood in Mysuru. Additionally, in 1944, another sandalwood oil factory was established in Shivamoga.

Following the unification of Karnataka, these factories fell under the governance of the Karnataka government. In 1980, a decision was made to merge these facilities and integrate them into a company called Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited.

The company adopted the mythological creature 'Sharabha,' with a lion's body and an elephant's head, as its logo. Since then, it has expanded its product range to include incense sticks, talcum powder, detergents, cosmetics, hand wash, in addition to various kinds of soaps.

Where is the market for Mysore Sandal Soap?

Apart from Karnataka, the Mysore Sandal Soap has a market in many states across the country. According to KSDL officials, from the past 25 years KSDL has been exporting its products all over the world due to its excellent quality and the uniqueness of sandalwood. Officials said that the products have been exported to the United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Canada, Singapore, Kuwait, Malaysia, European countries, South Africa, Australia, and also neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan.

What is the turnover of KSDL?

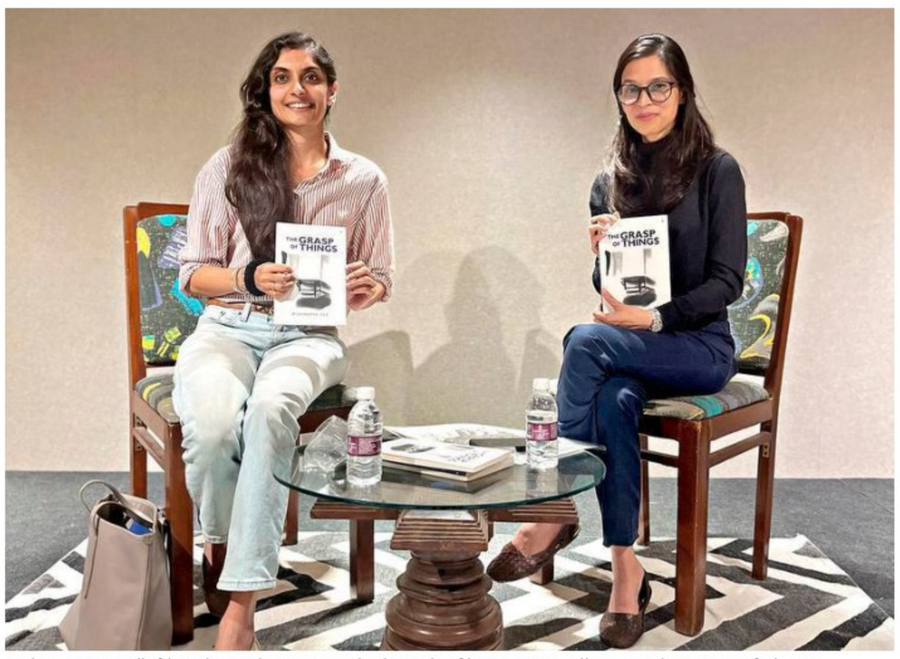
The KSDL which is the Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) company had reported a turnover of ₹1,375 crore in 2022-23, marking a 25% increase from ₹1,104 crore in 2021-22. The company was anticipating achieving a turnover of ₹2,000 crore in 2023-24.

Recently Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who launched 21 new soaps and detergent products manufactured by KSDL said that KSDL has made a profit of ₹182 core till now in this fiscal year against ₹132 crore in 2022-23, an increase of ₹50 crore.

Of all the things that escape grasp

Aishwarya Iyer spoke to writer Devika Rege about her debut poetry collection and various aspects of her writing process

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU



Aishwarya Iyer (left) with Devika Rege at the launch of her poetry collection *The Grasp of Things*.

Aishwarya Iyer thinks of her first book of poems, *The Grasp of Things*, as an apprenticeship, "a book, which taught me how to write a book," she says in a conversation with Devika Rege, the author of the award-winning novel *Quarterlife*, at a recent launch event held at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar.

Rege begins by referencing a blurb by the writer Nandini Dhar, who writes, "Aishwarya Iyer's *The Grasp of Things* establishes a new lyrical "I" in Indian Anglophone poetry—that of the woman who wants to claim urban spaces as her own." Continuing to quote Dhar, she adds that the book can also be seen as a chronicle of different kinds of hunger. While the book is all these things, "the description didn't go far enough," believes Rege.

"This new lyrical eye and the poems here have much more to do with an existential, almost philosophical preoccupation with time, with language and the limits of making meaning."

Why the title

Over a freewheeling conversation interspersed by multiple readings, Rege and Iyer delved into various aspects of the book and the writing process itself, finishing with a brief meditation on language hegemony and why both authors choose to write in English.

Referring to the title "both simple and direct, but also profound," Rege says that she finds the word grasp interesting. "It suggests both the strength and control of a firm grip, whether it is on language or a person or reality itself. And yet, it also brings to mind a desperate search for a solution in difficult times or even a kind of futility when we think of its idiomatic usage." She adds that as a writer herself, the immediate connotation which came to mind was writing as redemption for what would soon be lost to memory, resurrecting what was already eroded by time. "Was this book an attempt to redeem something in the face of time?" she asks Iyer.

Iyer, in response, talks about spending nearly 16 years putting together this book "to add, remove poems, move them around and rework them," she says, recalling the grief she encountered when the book was finally out in the world. "It felt anti-climactic, (there was) no triumph at all," she says of the book, an attempt "to salvage through poetry what gets wasted."

The conversation then veers into the style and structure of the book, with names such as Simone Weil, John Ashbery, Bertolt Brecht and Anne Carson popping up during the course of it. "One of the things that struck me about Aishwarya was her sheer frankness. These sudden shifts in register from images that are very delicate to those that are almost coarse," says Rege, kickstarting a discussion around the purity of poetry as a form and how it manages to capture "the moment before the allocation of sense and nonsense" as Iyer puts it.

Indian experience in English

Other talk points at the launch included Iyer's interesting imagery around desire and longing, the primality of grief, the way gender shapes poetry, cultural subjectivity or, rather, the lack of it, Greek philosophy, and much more. "I don't struggle with the question of how we match an Indian experience, which is undercut with so many languages, into the English language," says Iyer, who thinks of it, in fact, as an interesting creative process. Rege, in turn, talks about how she was recently asked if she had considered writing *Quarterlife* in Hindi. "I understand the history of English in this country and the hegemonies it speaks to," she says. And yet, after all, linguistic hegemony seeps into many other languages, too.

"It is not something I have wrestled with...the moral good to write in English in this country. If I transit out of that language, what language do I go to?" says Rege, pointing out that she chooses to write in what she calls "Indian English...the language that encapsulates my situation here." She adds that she tries to mediate it in a way that is most authentic "that fully captures all the struggles, strains and ugliness of that privilege."

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 24, 1974

Minister's Charge Against Private Bus Operators

Bangalore, Jan. 23: The Minister for Transport, Mr. K.H. Ranganath said here to-day that people who were "friendly with Ministers and helped the ruling party" were themselves indulging in fraudulent practices like running transport buses without valid permits.

He said that in the State only 173 bus operators had been given permits. However, on several important routes hundreds of private buses carried passengers regularly though they had permits to carry only pilgrims.

The Minister was laying the foundation stone for a Rs. 1.5 lakh community hall to be constructed by the Bangalore City Corporation at Thulasi Thota. He said that such private operators were depriving the nationalised KSRTC of revenues.

Pathak Asks People to Guard Against Regionalism

Bangalore, Jan. 23. The Vice President, Mr. G.S. Pathak, asked the people to guard themselves against distinctions of caste, creed, language, religion and region, which were leading to mutual hostility and undermining the forces of national integration.

Mr. Pathak, whose inaugural address was read out by the Agricultural Minister, Mr. Chikke Gowda in his absence at the Centenary celebration of the Arcot Narayanaswamy Mudaliar's educational institutions here to-day said poverty, illiteracy and social injustices had not yet been removed in the country.

'Bengaluru groomed me from cook to chef'

Chef Suresh Pillai feel Bengaluru is the best city to start a business, which is why he opened his first restaurant here and followed it with a second one and five other brands

Saraswathy Nagarajan

Bangalore Days

- The chef became a restauranteer on November 1, 2021 when he opened Restaurant Chef Pillai (RCP) in Whitefield. At present, his outlets are Kothuxpress, North Rasoi, Caking, Thenga Manga (at Whitefield and MG Road) and RCP on Brigade Road.
- "Bengaluru is the city that groomed me from a cook to a chef. Moreover, when I worked there for about five years, I found that nowhere in India would you find a place where different cuisines and food are so welcomed and appreciated."
- "It's easy to open a restaurant in the city given the support one gets by way of technical help and customers' patronage. I feel it is the best city to start a business. That is why I opened my first restaurant there and followed it with a second one and five other brands in Bengaluru. The city has a special place in my heart."

"Mohanlal is a complete foodie. He enjoys exploring different kinds of cuisines, cooking and having good food. His tastes are not confined to any one cuisine; he enjoys several kinds of food he has had during his travels," says Chef and restaurateur Suresh Pillai.

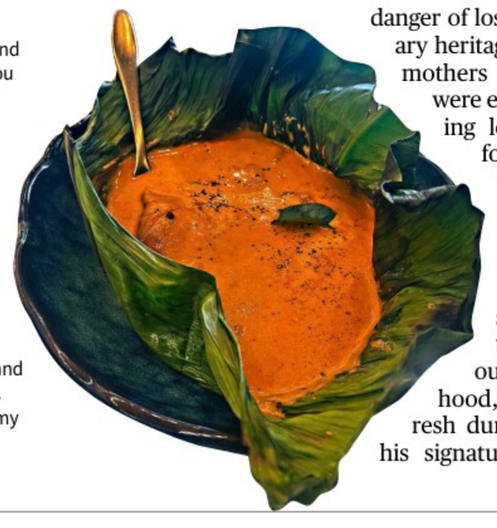
At times, the actor opts for customised diets. Sometimes, the chef gets a call from the home of the star for a special serving of oxtail soup, which the star is said to enjoy, or a helping of lean meat if he is on a no-carbs diet.

Having catered to a legion of celebrities, this celebrity chef is familiar with their food choices. It takes a little prodding to get him talking about what he cooked for the celebrities. "When West Indies cricketer Chris Gayle was in Kerala, he was bowled over by fish Nirvana (a signature dish of the chef); cricketer Virat Kohli is a vegan. He enjoyed a typical Kerala *sadya* (traditional feast of rice, curries and dessert served on a banana leaf) because many of the curries served as part of a *sadya* are vegan. Even many Malayalis are not aware of the range and diversity of Malayali cuisine," he adds.

That is why Chef Pillai, an ambassador of Kerala's rich culinary culture, is determined to popularise it for visitors and Keralites themselves.

"Many heirloom recipes are vanishing and we are in danger of losing our culinary heritage. Our grandmothers and elders were eating and buying local long before it became a trend. At present, most of us have no clue about the rich diversity of food that exists in our neighbourhood," explains Suresh during a chat at his signature restaurant Restaurant Chef Pillai at the Le Meridien in Kochi.

To the stars and back Chef Suresh Pillai and authentic Kerala dishes from his kitchen. THE HINDU



Seasoned by trade

He rues that though the government has set up several institutions to safeguard and preserve our literary and cultural heritage, nothing has been done to conserve and popularise our rich culinary heritage, "which has been seasoned by the State's long legacy of maritime trade. Our food has been flavoured over the years with the methods and ingredients that were brought by traders and colonialists to Kerala."

"Look at the richness of our breakfast choices. Nowhere in India can we find so many choices. Curating that is important. We need an academy on the lines of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy and the Sahitya Akademi to promote, study and preserve the culinary traditions of Kerala."

Hailing from Thekkumbhagam, a picturesque, rustic island in Kollam district, Suresh is familiar with the wealth of seafood in the waters of Kerala and hundreds of ways to cook it. "Nevertheless, when I went to Kozhikode for a chess competition in the Nineties, I was bowled over by the variety of food that was made with seafood. Each region in the State has its own variations of dishes even when the ingredients are the same," he says.

Tweaking traditional recipes

Some of the traditional recipes have been tweaked by him to enhance its flavours. Suresh says that the fish nirvana, popular in his restaurants, is a fish curry from Kottayam that he reimagined. So is the *puliyinchi* chicken wings, which has an unexpected sweet and tart taste that titillates the taste buds. "Nevertheless, I maintain that the fish curry that my mother used to make with sardines and the fish available around the Ashtamudi Lake is the best I have tasted."

His rags-to-riches story is the stuff of dreams. The son of daily-wage workers, Suresh has not forgotten the many kind acts that have helped him reach the stars. Now, he wants to give back by employing people who may not have academic qualifications and training but have the drive and ambition to succeed. "Their fire and zeal will make up for the lack of academic qualifications. I had to go through a lot of setbacks because I was not a graduate or qualified chef. So when I spot people in similar situations, I want to give them that break."

He was in the news when he was able to reunite an employee of his from Manipur with her mother and sister during the unrest in the State.

Suresh also makes it a point to employ differently-abled people who want to prove themselves in the food and hospitality industry.

All set to open his flagship restaurant in Kodaikanal, the chef says he is happy that he was able to open 15 restaurants in 2023 and introduce seven brands. He hopes to expand his flavour empire in India and abroad.

In a note on social media, he writes: "What started as three outlets in 2022, is now at 14 in the second year. I have plans to hit the 50 mark by this time next year, across nine countries, and opening up my RCP team to 2000 more talents."

EATING OUT

Slow and steady Anas and some of his creations on offer at Beyondburg Inc. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amping up the burger scene

Priyamedha Dutta

If you are a fan of juicy, meaty burgers, Bengaluru has a new place for you. While we all know the burger scene in the city has long been dominated by the iconic Truffles, a cult favourite of the younger generation, the emerging burger joints are surely elevating the experience.

Beyondburg Inc, a brainchild of Mohammed Anas, is a reflection of his passion. Anas started studying aviation but soon found his calling in cooking. "When I told my parents I wanted to be a chef, like most Indian parents they were completely against it."

While in college Anas worked at one of his elder brother's restaurants in Trivandrum which he believed gave him huge exposure in terms of how real kitchens work. After completing his studies, Anas pursued his passion for cooking, after convincing his parents. "For almost two years I worked in various kitchens; I also worked as a service person and cashier in restaurants."

Anas and his friend and partner Ajmal Jaseem, who handles the operations started their journey from a tiny kiosk in Bengaluru in 2017. The first branded Beyondburg Inc. Outlet came up in Kozhikode Kerala, in 2020. This was followed by the flagship store in Kochi. They recently opened their first sit-in store in Courtyard by Sublime, Prestige Trade Tower. The carefully curated menu has ingredients sourced locally, creating burgers that are tasty, nutritious and healthy.

"We source our meat directly from local farms and butchers. Working with local farmers is a choice we made, to reduce carbon footprint and to ensure freshness, quality and flavour," said Anas.

We tried some of their classic burgers, the in-house signature Swiss cheese burger with two smashed tenderloin patties, Emmental cheese and sautéed mushrooms served in a buttery brioche bun. The soft patty melts in the mouth, paired with the soft brioche bun that absorbs all the good juices from the patty, elevating the taste of the burger. The second-best burger we tested was the Asian-slaw burger, which comes with buffalo chicken tenders, jalapeño, and raw mango tossed Asian coleslaw.

The vegetarian options are equally delightful – the red quinoa burger features a blend of red quinoa, chickpea, mushroom and spinach. Unlike an *aloo* base, this loaded vegetarian burger is perfect for a daily dose of good vitamins.

While most burger places offer a fizzy drink with their burgers, for Beyondburg aerated drinks are a no-no. Besides, who does not like a classic Choco Chip Cookie Milkshake? What hit the spot for us was the peanut butter cookie milkshake. If you are lactose intolerant, the mint matcha freeze should be a must try.

And just when we thought we were done, the classic New York cheese cake ended the meal on a sweet note.

Beyondburg Inc
Hits: Swiss Cheese Burger
Misses: None
Pocket pinch: ₹500 for two

The story of Santosh Chat Corner, the city's traffic-stopping chaat shop

STREET TREATS

Praveen Sudevan

At about five in the evening, the onset of Bengaluru's infamous peak-hour traffic, a white Mercedes Benz is parked diagonally opposite Santosh Chat Counter, a small but bustling *chaat* shop near the intersection of Infantry Road and Union Street. The car does not move despite the harsh honking of other motorists. Traffic begins to clog. The honks increase. A Santosh Chat employee rushes to the car, hands over a parcel, and gets some cash. The traffic eases after this transaction. But for a few minutes, the tiny *chaat* shop brings a part of Infantry Road to a standstill. And, this is not a one-off occurrence.

Santosh, the owner of Santosh Chat, migrated to Bengaluru in 1994 because of plummeting sugarcane prices in his native place, Bihar. His father, a sugarcane farmer, struggled to make ends meet. After doing odd jobs for two years, he opened the *chaat* shop with his brothers in Vasanth Nagar before moving to Infantry Road. "Back then, you won't see this much traffic," he says in Hindi, recalling his early days in the city, "The roads were deserted in the evenings. We used to make just a few hundred rupees daily, selling about 10 *chaat* items."

The size of the shop remains more or less the same. But the business has grown exponentially. The per-day profit is now about four thousand (though a regular customer tells us it could be much more). The menu has close to 50 items to choose from now.

Mouth-watering delights The scene at Santosh Chat Shop. MURALI KUMAR K

The best-seller, according to Santosh, is the Special Mixture. So, we decide to try that. It comes in a white ceramic plate, its circumference sprinkled with spices of different colours. We take a spoonful. In the next few seconds, fireworks of flavours go off inside our mouths. The taste and texture of crushed samosas, spiced green peas masala, thick sweet curd, mixture, and puffed rice make your mouth water, and yet, you want more. Samosa *chaat* and *masala puri* are the other in-demand items. But, apart from the mouth, they make your eyes water, too.

Many dishes on the menu are on the spicier side. This is why many customers follow up the *chaat* with a small cup of *gulab jamoon*. But we found the Gulab Jamoon cloying. It seems the son of a sugarcane farmer likes sweetness in abundance.

CITYBEATS

Culinary salute

Chowman is celebrating Republic Day with a special spread of Indo-Chinese dishes such as lamb in oyster sauce and Hunan prawns. For vegetarians, the chef's special Thai-style meifoon and stir-fried four-treasured mushrooms are just a few of the interesting dishes on offer.

Price for two ₹799 (approx). Avail special offers on Chowman app, Swiggy and Zomato

Call of the sea

Absolute Barbecues is hosting a seafood festival called Marine Feast-A-Thon. Seafood lovers will be thrilled at the spread on offer – appetisers and soups such as bisque to a 'wish grill' where patrons can opt for marinades of their choice. Desserts and drinks are also a part of the seafood fest.

On at all branches in the city till January 31. Call 91 7207997097 to book a table.

Rumble in Rangoon

This Republic Day, Societe Rangoon is presenting dishes with a distinct Indian style and seasoning. Indulge in yellow curry with mock meat, baby potatoes spiced with lemongrass and spicy broad rice noodles. Burmese favourites such as masala *pauk si* and squid *balachaung*, are also on the menu.

Price for two ₹1700. To book call 080-22273820

CWRC an unbiased platform: Minister

K. Lakshmi
CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) is an unbiased platform working towards best management of water resources, said Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Tuesday.

He was speaking at a press conference after the All India Secretaries Conference on Water Vision @2047-Way Ahead, which was organised by the National Water Mission of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and coordinated by the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department here.

On the Cauvery water share for Tamil Nadu, the Minister said the CWRC had met several times to assess water availability, and based on the storage, it decided the allocation to be made to the States.

On the groundwater situation across the country, he said the Jal Shakti Ministry had improved the efficacy of aquifer mapping, which led to evidence-based management interventions, and helped drastically reduce the number of overexploited and critical groundwater areas in the country. He said groundwater assessment units showed a nearly 10% improvement owing to better recharge. The frequency of aquifer mapping had been stepped up and annual reports were now being published with better efficacy and more piezometers, he said.

He also noted that the Ministry had prepared a draft recycle and reuse policy and shared with the State governments. Some States had their own policy, he said.At the conference, Mr. Shekhawat said all States should prioritise demand-side management by regulating water use, instead of supply management.

200 units of free electricity in Telangana soon: Minister

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy says domestic power consumers will get the benefit from next month; he says Congress govt will fulfil all poll promises, accuses KCR government of emptying the coffers

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy asserted that the Congress government would fulfil all promises made during the elections, and free power up to 200 units a month to domestic consumers would be implemented from next month.

The Telangana Minister for Roads and Buildings blamed the previous BRS government for the delay in the implementation of promises as the KCR government had "emptied the coffers with its financial indiscipline and mismanagement."

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Mr. Reddy also said that it was certain that former Minister G. Jagadish Reddy would go to jail for his alleged role in irregularities in the execution of Bhadadri and Yadadri thermal power stations and purchase of power from Chhattisgarh.

> Jagadish Reddy's role in purchase of power from the Chhattisgarh power utility will get exposed soon
>
> **KOMATIREDDY VENKAT REDDY**
> Telangana Minister

"His role in the execution of power projects and purchase of power from the Chhattisgarh power utility will get exposed soon. He is making baseless allegations against me," he said.

The State government is committed to conduct an inquiry into the charges of corruption against Mr. Jagadish Reddy in this matter, Mr. Reddy said.

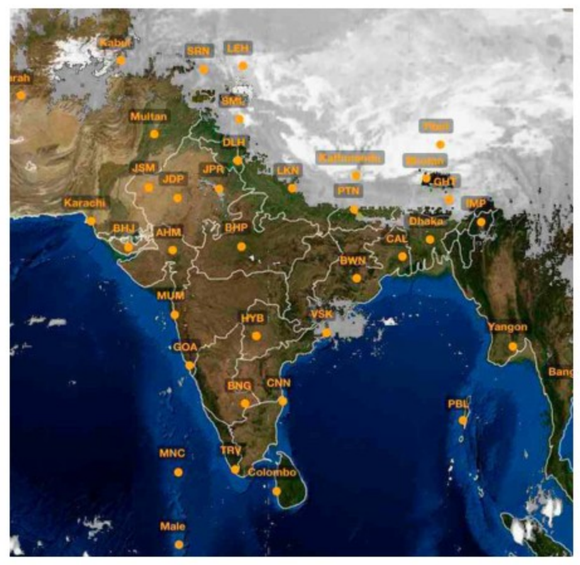
Recently BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao had asked domestic power consumers not to pay their energy bills for January, generated and payable in February, as the Congress had promised free 200 units to all households under its Gruha Jyothi guarantee.

Demanding immediate implementation of the poll guarantee, the BRS leader asked people to send their energy bills to 10 Janpath in New Delhi, the official residence of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, as Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy had stated during the poll campaign that Ms. Gandhi would pay their bills.

Mr. Venkat Reddy also stated that BRS would get deflated after the Parliament elections as many MLAs of that party were in touch with the Congress and were willing to join the ruling party. The BRS would be shred into pieces and Mr. Jagadish Reddy would go to jail after the judicial probe into the irregularities in execution of power projects and purchase.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	20.8	9.4	Kozhikode	—	34.5	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	28.3	11.5	Kurnool	—	34.5	20.4
Aizawl	—	22.4	10.8	Lucknow	—	18.1	3.6
Allahabad	—	13.4	6.0	Madurai	—	32.5	21.0
Bengaluru	—	30.4	16.3	Mangaluru	—	33.4	23.6
Bhopal	—	22.9	9.4	Mumbai	—	30.0	14.8
Bhubaneswar	—	25.6	16.4	Mysuru	—	31.0	17.0
Chandigarh	—	15.1	7.8	New Delhi	—	19.5	6.9
Chennai	—	30.6	23.6	Patna	—	13.3	7.2
Coimbatore	—	31.7	20.2	Port Blair	—	30.4	20.8
Dehradun	—	20.5	4.4	Puducherry	—	31.0	22.0
Gangtok	—	12.8	5.6	Pune	—	29.7	13.4
Goa	—	31.0	20.0	Raipur	—	22.0	17.8
Guwahati	—	24.6	8.6	Ranchi	—	22.6	7.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	18.0	Shillong	—	14.5	5.0
Hyderabad	—	31.3	20.3	Shimla	—	15.0	5.0
Imphal	—	22.5	3.8	Srinagar	—	12.0	-5.0
Jaipur	—	22.5	5.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.4	25.0
Kochi	—	31.8	26.2	Tiruchi	—	32.1	20.0
Kohima	—	16.0	4.0	Vijayawada	—	30.8	21.6
Kolkata	—	24.0	10.9	Visakhapatnam	0.1	28.8	22.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	66	.23	204	227	
Bengaluru	3	32	.23	—	207	
Chennai	3	52	.62	330	251	
Delhi	.10	200	.87	366	340	
Hyderabad	.16	.24	.23	68	90	
Kolkata	.19	.91	.24	301	189	
Lucknow	9	50	.85	373	310	
Mumbai	—	.25	.20	282	252	
Pune	114	168	110	63	74	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.35	.54	250	152	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Saharsa, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 378 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Will call new criminal laws by names of old legislation'

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court on Tuesday told lawyers present in his court hall that he would continue to refer to the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act by their original names even after they get replaced with new laws named in Hindi.

"I will refer to IPC only as IPC, because I don't know that language (Hindi)," he told the advocates during the hearing of a case in which he had requested the Bar members to assist him in answering a crucial question of law related to the limitation period, prescribed under Section 468 of the CrPC, for taking cognisance of offences.

Madras Bar Association (MBA) president S. Thiruvengadam, advocate Mohamed Riyaz, Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) A. Damodaran and others assisted the court by referring to the Supreme Court judgments on the issue. The lawyers also brought to the notice of the judge the various amendments made to the CrPC.

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh

'New Act'

When the APP wanted to refer to a *pari materia* (on the same subject) provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 which was to replace the CrPC, he requested the judge to look into the "new Act." The judge, in a lighter vein, asked the APP to name the new Act and found the law officer to be struggling.

Basic criminal laws

"So, Damodaran has cleverly chosen to simply refer to it as new Act," the judge said, amidst laughter in the court hall and told the lawyers that he would continue to refer to the three basic criminal laws by their original English names because he does not know Hindi.

Apart from the CrPC, Parliament had recently decided to replace the IPC as well as the Indian Evidence Act with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya, 2023 respectively. The President too had accorded assent to the three new criminal laws and they are expected to come into force this year.

South East Central Railway
Tender Notice for Miscellaneous Works
TENDER NOTICE No: Sr. DEE(RS&G) BSP/OTP/23-24-12 Dated: 16.01.2024
Name of Work: Bilaspur Division Augmentation of running room by 50 beds (25 rooms) as well as improvement of faculties in the existing running room at Bilaspur." **Tender Value (Approx)** : ₹ 15,34,542.06/-, **EMD amount** : ₹ 30,700/-, **Tender Closing Date, Time:** 08.02.2024, 15.00 Hrs. For further details, eligibility criteria & complete details for the above work. Please refer/download tender document. Which is available on website **www.ireps.gov.in**.
Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (RS&G)
CPR/10/385 S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur
South East Central Railway @secrail

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of our client **Mr.Sivakumar Madichedi** S/o M. Muniswamy, to bring to the notice of the general public that the original Sale deed dated 28.04.1994 registered as document number 1073/94-95 in Book-1, stored in Page Nos.153-160, Volume No.938 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Kengeri, Bangalore is lost.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
Property bearing **Site No.86,** Khatha No.574/612/86 of **Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk**, measuring ExW 60 ft and NxS 40 ft and bounded on:
East by : 40 Ft Wide Road, West by : Site No.85 & Portion of Site No.88, North by : Site No.87, South by : Site No.82.
Rashmi.R, Advocate,
#5, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, Kalyannagar, Nagarabhavi Main Road, Bengaluru-560072
Mobile : 9916559198

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THE HINDU LIT FEST 2024
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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE
1. Which of Tarana Husain Khan's novels focuses on the lives of three different women who go through similar troubles but is set in three different timelines?
2. Which famous fashion designer's book, "Journey to India Modern", explores their contributions to the industry and their examination of the past and present?
3. Varghese K George's "Open Embrace" discusses a detailed examination of ties between which two countries in the light of incidents unfolding around the world?
Visit newsth.live/LitFestQuiz
Read the Terms & Conditions.
Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz.
Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers.
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. MAHABHARATA
2. LOS ANGELES
3. CONTEMPORARY INDIA AND ITS FUTURE

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES)
Podium Block,3rd Floor, V.V Tower, Bengaluru-560001
e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com, Phone No.080-29565353/29604556
No. SPLOCA/ADM/06/2022 **Date: 22.01.2024**
NOTIFICATION
Resume/quotations are invited from interested agencies/interested individuals to fill up the following various posts which have been sanctioned and not filled up to the Office of the Special Officer and the Competent Authority (IMA and Other KPIDFE Scam). The applications shall be submitted to the above office. **Last date of submission of Resume: 31st January 2024.**
ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ:

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	IT personnel-2 Forensic Data Scientist	BE CSE/IS with certificate in Cyber Forensics and Cyber Law (CCCFL)	BE CSE/IS with PG Diploma in CCCFL	Minimum 1 Year as Data Scientist or Cyber Forensic Expert.	1 year in CA firm or forensic audit firm.	1	80,000/- to 100,000/- Depending on qualification and experience.

Sl. No.	Post/ Designation	Qualification/ Requirements	Experience	No. of Post	Contract wage per month
1.	CA	Individuals with CA Certificate in forensic audit & Experience in the field of financial analysis and forensic audit of related Companies/Banks/Cooperatives. Job Profile: 1. Identifying Fund Trail, Tracking of banking transactions. 2. Conducting audit, Transactional forensic 3. Analysis of payer beneficiary details for bank transactions and identifying assets created out of the same. 4. Collecting information from various Government agencies such as RBI, SEBI, ED, CBI, IT etc. 5.Tracking fund transfers, analyzing cash transactions 6. Creating & validating database. 7. Analyzing and vetting claims. 8.Providing expert evidence in legal fora on payment of Rs.2000 per appearance/effective hearing and Rs 200 per ineffective hearing	Minimum-5Years as CA and 1Year as Forensic Auditor. Preferred-10 Years as CA and 2 years as Forensic Auditor & Knowledge of Audit Software like IDEA Data Analysis, CaseWare Analytics AI. Age should not exceed 55 Years.	1	Rs:1,25,000/- to 1,75,000/- per month depending upon qualification and experience and Rs. 25,000/- per month for Experience in forensic audit.

The Position to be filled is a post created in the office of Special officer & Competent Authority, Financial Frauds Revenue Department Government of Karnataka vide Government Order No. RD45GRC2020(PIII) dated:25-08-2022 and is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract renewable on satisfactory performance with periodic enhancement of salary scales, **not permanent government service.**
Sd/-
Asst. Commissioner
Special Officer and Competent Authority,
IMA and Other KPIDFE Cases, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/3188/Zenkar/2023-24

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023. Tel: 080-2955 7021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com
No: KSAPS/PRC/21/2023-24 **Date: 20.01.2024**
Invitation for Tender
(Two Cover) Through e-Procurement
Tender (Two cover) are invited for **Supply of Laptops, Projector & Screen** under e-Procurement System. Details are available at e-Procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Last date for submission of tender on **12-02-2024 at 5:30 p.m.**
Sd/-
Project Director
KSAPS, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/3191/MAA/2023-24

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road)
Bengaluru-25 Ph: 080 – 25584102/25594893
Website: www.ksphc.org e-mail : eecontractksphc@gmail.com
No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/13/2023-24/450 Date: 23.01.2024
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document **KW-4** (two cover tender document system) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:
Construction of Sewage Treatment plant (STP) of 150 KLD Capacity in Central Prision, Kalaburagi (call-2). Amount Put to Tender (APT) in Lakhs: 108.07
The Interested Eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender Fee, E.M.D, Tender Documents etc., are available on **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from: 29.01.2024**
"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."
Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP).
Sd/-
Executive Engineer – Contracts
DIPR/CP/3208/AKAR/2023-24

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY, MUSEUM AND HERITAGE, MYSORE
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010
Ph: 0821-2424673/74 Email :commr_amh@yahoo.in
No: DAMH:CW:Tender-10/2023-24 **Date: 18.01.2024**
TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage invites the service tenders for the **1)** Studying and preparing a proposal for inclusion of the Group of monuments in Sharavanabelagola, Channarayapatna taluk, Hassan district (Indent No.DAMH/2023-24/SE0001) and **2)** Group of monuments in Lakkundi, Gadag taluk, Gadag district (Indent No.DAMH/2023-24/SE0002) on the tentative list of world heritage sites., **3)** Providing the service of staff on an outsourcing basis to perform duty at offices, museums, and monuments (Indent No.DAMH/2023-24/ SE0003), **4)** Providing sedan-class air-conditioned cars along with drivers on an outsourcing basis to the subordinate officers of the department (Indent No.DAMH/2023-24/SE0004) on the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in accordance with the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Ordinance 1999–2000. The minimum amount of this tender is **Rs.1.50 lakhs,** and the maximum amount is **Rs.240.00 lakhs.** Registered interested organizations, contractors, NGOs, agencies, companies, and travel agencies can participate as per the conditions mentioned in the tender document.

A tender bid meeting will be held in the office of the Commissioner, Mysore.	Date 30.01.2024 at 11.30 Hours
The last date and time of submissions for Sl.No.1 to Sl. No.3 work.	Date 03.02.2024 at 16.00 Hours
The last date and time of submissions for Sl.No.4 work.	Date 19.02.2024 at 16.00 Hours
The opening date and time of technical bids for Sl.No.1 to 3 works.	Date 05.02.2024 at 16.30 Hours
The opening date and time of technical bids for Sl.No.4 work.	Date 21.02.2024, 16.30 Hours and Date 23.02.2024, 11.00 Hours

Sd/- Commissioner,
Department of Archaeology, Musuems and Heritage, Mysore
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/941/23-24

Limits and borders

Centre must consult States before decisions that impinge on their powers

Litigation concerning the territorial jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) in Punjab seems to be the result of the lack of effective consultation between the central and State governments on the issue. Punjab has filed a suit against the Union government under Article 131 of the Constitution, challenging the decision to increase the operational jurisdiction of the BSF from 15 km to 50 km. The border State sees the Centre's move as a breach of federal principles and an encroachment into the law and order powers of the Punjab police. West Bengal has a similar view, and both States have got resolutions passed in their Assemblies against the expansion. In this backdrop, the Supreme Court's decision to examine the questions that arise from the expansion of the BSF's area of operations acquires significance. In October 2021, the Centre had issued a notification under the provisions of the BSF Act, standardising the area over which the BSF would have jurisdiction to operate. In Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, the distance was raised from within 15 km from the border to 50 km, while it was reduced from 80 km to 50 km in Gujarat. For Rajasthan, it was kept unchanged at 50 km. The Union government said in a reply in the Rajya Sabha in December 2021 that the extension of the BSF's jurisdiction will help it discharge its border patrol duty more effectively.

While the Union government may have valid reasons for its move, it should not be seen as encroaching into the domain of the State governments, which have the constitutional responsibility to maintain public order and exercise police powers. The BSF mainly focuses on preventing trans-border crimes, especially unauthorised entry into or exit from Indian territory. It does not have the power to investigate or prosecute offenders, but has to hand over those arrested and the contraband seized from them to the local police. In practice, BSF personnel usually work in close coordination with the police and there ought to be no clash of jurisdiction. It is possible to argue that the expanded jurisdiction merely authorises the BSF to conduct more searches and seizures, especially in cases in which the offenders manage to enter deep into the country's territory. However, it goes without saying that there ought to be strong reasons for the expansion of the jurisdiction of any central force. In this regard, the most relevant questions among those framed by the Supreme Court are whether the Centre's notification encroaches upon the State government's domain; and what factors ought to be taken into account while determining the "local limits of areas adjoining the borders of India".

Narrowing field

Trump's ad hoc policymaking has many takers among Republicans

The 2024 U.S. presidential election's Republican primaries race has already narrowed to two candidates, frontrunner and former President Donald Trump and former Governor of South Carolina, Indian-origin Nikki Haley. The latest twist in the election cycle saga, which kicked off last week with the Iowa caucuses, saw Florida Governor Ron DeSantis step off the contest after he admitted that he could not see a path to victory. Both he and Vivek Ramaswamy, a pharmaceuticals entrepreneur who exited the race earlier, have endorsed Mr. Trump, who leads by double digits, 50% to Ms. Haley's 39% among likely Republican voters, in New Hampshire, the next Republican primary venue. In Iowa, he garnered 20 delegates to Ms. Haley's eight, a wide margin, even if he has a long road ahead to acquire the 1,215 delegates necessary to capture the nomination. While there are no presidential debates on the cards at this time because Mr. Trump has refused to join them, the tenor of the remarks by the two candidates against their rival appeared to be getting sharper. Ms. Haley questioned Mr. Trump's mental fitness to hold high office after he seemed to confuse her with former House of Representatives Speaker and Democrat Nancy Pelosi, in the context of the January 6, 2021 riots. Mr. Trump has mocked her first name Nimrata and, in an echo of the birther movement remarks he made against former President Barack Obama, implicitly questioned whether she was a natural-born U.S. citizen.

Unlike previous U.S. elections, such as in 2016, where there were no fewer than 10 candidates in the fray during the presidential debates, this time a considerable skew in voter preferences towards Mr. Trump is evident, leading to a lopsided primaries season. Ms. Haley is only likely to remain in the race for as long as she is able to raise sufficient funds to keep her campaign going, and donors are notoriously quick to pull out when they see a dead end for a candidate, regardless of their political leanings. The wholesale rush towards the aura of Trumpism, now apparently an ever-growing force despite Mr. Trump facing serious criminal indictments and other legal challenges, has in fact fractured mainstream Republicanism as a bulwark of the U.S. conservative movement. Voters now appear to prefer Mr. Trump's chaotic ad hocism in policymaking, his aggressive views on immigration and minorities of all hues, and his relentless eschewing of political propriety even when dealing with institutional issues. Unless there is an impulse for new leadership within the Grand Old Party to challenge the Trump "paradigm", the sheer lack of alternative voices with populist appeal will lead to Trumpism deepening its hold on U.S. institutions, governance and socio-economic outcomes.

The larger message to New Delhi from the Red Sea

Happymon Jacob

teaches at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and is the founder of the Council for Strategic and Defense Research

The arrival of the Indo-Pacific marked India's great break out from the unfriendly continental theatre, hemmed in by China and Pakistan and constrained by the vagaries of geopolitics on most of the remaining land borders. But is this ocean of opportunity, quite literally so, steadily becoming yet another theatre of conflict, competition and containment?

The Houthi terror attacks on *MV Chem Pluto*, an oil and chemical tanker, on its way to the New Mangalore port from the Al Jubail port in Saudi Arabia, and *MV Sai Baba*, a Gabon-owned, Indian-flagged crude oil tanker, with predominantly Indian crew forced India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to rush to Tehran to persuade the principal Houthi sponsor to help cease the attacks. India's military response to the Red sea situation has also been swift: the Indian Navy deployed the guided missile destroyers, *INS Mormugao*, *INS Kochi* and *INS Kolkata* in the broader region.

The Houthi attack on commercial ships in the Red Sea and the fragility of order and stability in the Indo-Pacific, a direct result of Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, is also a reminder of the rough weather ahead in the Indo-Pacific in general and India's maritime space in particular. For India, the Houthi challenge may soon pass, given New Delhi's ties with Tehran. And yet, beyond the action-reaction mode, there is a larger question we must ponder. Does India have a maritime grand strategy that goes beyond occasional fire-fighting, naval exercises with friendly nations and a snail-pace increase of the budget allocation for the Indian Navy? What indeed is India's long-term vision for the Indo-Pacific?

New Delhi for sure has made a big, and welcome, shift in its grand strategy – from its continental obsession to maritime theatre. This is India's opening to the world at a time when its land borders are becoming increasingly testy allowing little access for the country to trade with and transit to the rest of the world. But, New Delhi's maritime turn also presents a major challenge, elements of which are becoming increasingly apparent.

A different 'new' two front situation

India's new two front challenge is not Pakistan and China posing a nutcracker situation for India, but a combination of its continental and maritime challenges.

Having an aggressive and rising China attempting to contain India on its continental and maritime fronts is a classic two-front situation. While India has been allowing itself to be obsessed with the Line of Control with Pakistan in the west, defending the Line of Actual Control with China in the north, and picking needless quarrels with its neighbours, Beijing was quietly building its empire of influence in the eastern, southern and western oceanic planks. For decades, Beijing (by arming Pakistan) ensured that India is boxed in in South Asia, ignoring the China challenge. By the time New Delhi put its unresolved conflicts with Pakistan in cold storage and shifted gears to the China challenge on the LAC, the game had already gotten bigger.

> The Red Sea situation will fade away, but India's new two-front situation, as continental and maritime challenges, cannot be wished away

While the People's Liberation Army keeps up the pressure on the LAC, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has been increasing its presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) at an alarming rate. Consider the following. To begin with, take note of the stupendous growth of the Chinese Navy which is perhaps the largest in the world today: according to one account, it has "an overall battle force of over 370 ships and submarines, including more than 140 major surface combatants". This number is expected to jump to 435 ships by 2030. By way of comparison, the Indian Navy today has 132 warships.

Numbers do not lie. Nor do China's intentions.

Take a look at China's push for overseas military bases. Beijing today has a military base in Djibouti. Growing Chinese activities in Pakistan's Gwadar and Sri Lanka's Hambantota should worry Indian strategists, even if they are not yet military bases. In Myanmar, the Kyaukpyu port which China is constructing will enable PLAN to inch closer to the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal – a maritime space India hereto enjoyed unrivalled. Beijing is reportedly expanding an artificial island in Maldives and the China-Maldives strategic partnership is bound to increase due to tensions between Male and New Delhi. One had the visit of the anti-India Maldivian President to China recently. China is also exploring strategic investment options in the Seychelles, and is also building a naval base in Ream, Cambodia. The small Indian Ocean island nation of Comoros is the latest to join China's fan club in the Indo-Pacific.

The emerging picture is this: from the Horn of Africa (Djibouti) to Myanmar, Sri Lanka, the Seychelles, the Maldives in the Indian Ocean to Gwadar in the Arabian Sea, China's actions will amount to a containment of India in the Indo-Pacific. Read these developments alongside China's expanding outreach to the global South, its port building efforts around the world, and strengthening of relations with West Asia and Africa.

Two things stand out. First, India's assessment about China's strategy to contain India in the continental space in South Asia is not a misplaced one, but is definitely an insufficient one. China is parallelly attempting to contain India in the larger maritime theatre as well.

Second, Beijing's attempt is to influence, among others, those spaces and countries that India has historically engaged with. While the IOR was India's traditional sphere of influence until the Chinese came in with goodies, the far-off regions such as Africa had historical, cultural and political links with India. In that sense, it appears to be a zero sum game – China's gain is India's loss.

Utilising global attention

So what should India do? To begin with, India should use the growing global attention on the Indo-Pacific which is easily the most consequential geopolitical construct of our times. The good news is that the Indian Ocean is too important for the rest of the world to let China take over. If China poses a challenge to India's regional security and interests in the broader IOR, it also poses a challenge to the commercial and security interests of the United States and its allies.

Every major country is today interested in the Indo-Pacific and its future trajectory as is India, which provides an opportunity for New Delhi to make coalitions with like-minded countries especially at a time Beijing has little great power backing in the maritime theatre. Second, India cannot balance against the growing Chinese power in the Indian Ocean all by itself. India occupies a pivotal location in the Indo-Pacific moment just as it is the heart of the Chinese attempts to create an empire of influence. Creating, and enhancing, partnerships with like-minded countries is perhaps an important way forward.

Even more importantly, perhaps, New Delhi must invest in a cohesive and well thought-out Indo-Pacific strategy that goes beyond noble intentions and nobler declarations. While Quad and Malabar are useful initiatives, they are at best a modest response to a grand futuristic challenge that is unfolding quickly. For sure, New Delhi already has several pieces of what could constitute the elements of a maritime grand strategy, but they need to be put together in a purposeful and cohesive manner.

The Red Sea situation will fade away eventually, but India's new two-front situation will become more and more apparent in the years to come. In that sense, New Delhi's decision not to join the U.S.-led 'Operation Prosperity Guardian' may have been the right choice for now, but in the longer run, its ability to meet the China challenge without being part of collective efforts would be limited.

The truth about India's booming toy exports

R. Nagaraj

was with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai

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India's toy industry is minuscule. Yet, it figures prominently in the policy discourse – be it the bygone era of the "permit license raj", or the ongoing 'Make in India' regime. Between 2014-15 and 2022-23, toy exports increased by 239% and imports declined by 52%, turning India into a net exporter, as reported in a recent official press release. An unpublished case study by the Indian Institute of Management Lucknow (IIM-L), sponsored by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), reportedly credits the export success to various promotional efforts under the aegis of 'Make in India', initiated since October 2014. We examine the official statistics to analyse the possible reasons for the reported success, as the case study is unavailable in the public domain.

The *table* (columns 2 and 3) shows net exports (exports minus imports) of toys under HS code 9503 and total toys (HS codes 9503+9504+9505) respectively. The trade balance was negative ₹1,500 crore in 2014-15, which turned positive from 2020-21 after a gap of 23 years. The turnaround in the labour-intensive industry, at a time when such industries are not doing too well, is indeed credible.

> India's turnaround in the toy trade since 2020-21 is the outcome of rising protectionism

How has it happened? In principle, there could be two reasons, the first being protectionism: A rise in import duties could reduce the demand for toys. The imposition of non-tariff barriers can shrink supply, raise prices and thus reduce demand. Alternatively, investment upswing could expand capacity and augment labour productivity to boost competitiveness and exports. What does the evidence show?

In February 2020, customs duty on toys (HS code 9503) was tripled from 20% to 60%. Since January 2021, non-tariff barriers (NBTs), namely, quality control order (QCO), and mandatory sample testing of each import consignment were imposed, restricting imports. Hence, in 2020-21, imports fell and the net exports turned positive. Moreover, as this was the COVID-19 pandemic times, with disrupted supply chains globally, imports were adversely affected. As the global supply chain was restored in 2022-23, net exports were reduced to ₹1,319 crore, from ₹1,614 crore in the previous year (for all toys) as exports moderated and imports spiked. The dip in net exports is steeper (31%) for toys under HS code 9503 despite the high import duty, while this dip is more moderate (18%) for all toys.

Hence, not surprisingly, the government further raised the basic customs duty to 70% in March 2023, from 60%, to stem the renewed rise in imports.

What data show

Could the turnaround in the toy trade during the last three years be on account of improving domestic productive capabilities? To answer the question, we have analysed the data from the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2014-15 to 2019-20. In 2015-16 (the latest available figures combined for the organised and unorganised sectors), the factory or organised sector accounted for 1% of the total number of the factories and enterprises, employed 20% of workers, used 63% of fixed capital, and produced 77% of the value of output ("India's Toy Industry: Production and Trade since 2000", by Abhishek Anand, R. Nagaraj, Naveen Thomas, *Economic and Political Weekly*, May 6, 2023).

During six years since 2014-15, the ASI data in real terms show there is hardly a steady rise in fixed capital per worker and gross value of output. More seriously, labour productivity has steadily declined from ₹7.5 lakh per worker in 2014-15 to ₹5 lakh in 2019-20 (more recent data unavailable). Moreover, export growth during pre- and post-2014-15 are not different. Therefore, it is hard to believe that India turning into a net toys exporter could be on account of improved domestic supply and its competitiveness. Hence, it can be safely inferred that India's turnaround in the toy trade since 2020-21 is the outcome of rising protectionism.

Protectionism for a limited period – as per the infant industry argument – may enable the domestic industry to make adequate investments, allow for "learning by doing" and enhance productivity to compete globally. Such protectionism needs to be complemented with investment policies, and provision of localised, industry/cluster-specific public infrastructure to stimulate a virtuous circle of expanding domestic capabilities to face international competition. In the absence of these pre-conditions, there is a real apprehension of the demand for protectionism getting entrenched in the industry, culminating in what Anne Krueger famously contended: "rent-seeking". India has enough experience with such policy failures.

In short, the toy industry has turned net exporter since 2020-21. 'Make in India' policies made it possible, claims an officially sponsored research. Published industry and trade data do not bear out such a proposition. Rising tariff and non-tariff barriers have made it possible. Perhaps the IIM-L's study uses different evidence to buttress its contention. Considering the divergent findings, the report should be made public in the interest of meaningful policy review and dialogue.

Toy sector trade and production statistics

Summary of trade and production statistics from 2014-15

Year	Net exports (₹ crore)		Toy industry - factory sector (At constant 1998-99 prices)		
	Toys (HS-9503)	Total toys (HS codes 9503+9504+9505)	Gross value of output (₹ crore)	Labour productivity (₹ lakh)	Fixed capital/worker (₹ lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
2014-15	-1,438	-1,450	324.9	7.5	2.4
2015-16	-1,555	-1,549	453.9	6.5	2
2016-17	-1,323	-1,245	301.7	5	2
2017-18	-1,317	-1,372	220.8	3.9	1.5
2018-19	-1,360	-1,176	348.6	4.8	1.7
2019-20	-1,055	-743	423.5	4.9	2.4
2020-21	83	451	-	-	-
2021-22	1,051	1,614	-	-	-
2022-23	729	1,319	-	-	-

Source: India's official trade data and Annual Survey of Industries

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Consecration and message

The inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya marks a defining moment in the political journey of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has now firmly positioned itself as the dominant pole in the political landscape of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly reminded the people of the importance of humility while celebrating the event. However, the grim reality is that the BJP has been aggressively pursuing the politics of religious polarisation with a sense of impunity ever since its ascendancy to power at the Centre. Hindu majoritarianism does not augur well for an inclusive and secular ethos in the country. While the Constitution calls for the separation of religion from politics, the BJP government at the Centre has had no qualms in projecting itself as the sole custodian of Hinduism and its followers, with an intent to reap electoral dividends.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

As a follower of the Hindu religion, it was a memorable moment for me to witness the consecration. But as an Indian, seeing it as a state-owned function through and through was also a moment of extreme anguish and trepidation as the beginning of the end of the country's cherished reputation worldwide as holding secularism in its blood and breath.

One would fervently hope, as the Editorial (January 23) forcefully insisted upon, that 'The Ram temple must help in healing wounds and creating harmony'.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

The consecration is purely a religious and definitely a personal affair of individuals. But the way the Prime Minister, the Union and certain State governments have exhibited extraordinary involvement in the event has ensured that the political colour of the event has overshadowed the religious character of the occasion. The media is also over-reacting.

Secularism may exist in the letters of the Constitution but is certainly missing in spirit.

A.G. Rajmohan,
Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

The need to overhaul a semiconductor scheme

The mid-term appraisal of the semiconductor Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme is due soon. Since its announcement, the DLI scheme has approved only seven start-ups, markedly short of its target of supporting 100 over five years. This impact assessment, therefore, presents an opportunity for policymakers to appraise and revamp the scheme.

India's $10 billion Semicon India Program has had mixed results, at best. There are three goals of India's semiconductor strategy. The first is to reduce dependence on semiconductor imports, particularly from China, and especially in strategic and emerging sectors, ranging from defence applications to Artificial Intelligence development. The second is to build supply chain resilience by integrating into the semiconductor global value chain (GVC). The third is to double down on India's comparative advantage: India already plays host to the design houses of every major global semiconductor industry player and Indian chip design engineers are an indispensable part of the semiconductor GVC.

These goals will help cement India's status as a semiconductor powerhouse. However, resources are limited. Therefore, priorities for industrial policy should ensure that we reap disproportionate benefits from our investments. Stimulating the design ecosystem is less capital-intensive than the foundry and assembly stages of the semiconductor GVC. Bolstering this stage can help establish strong forward linkages to an up-and-coming fabrication and assembly industry in India. Therefore, it is odd to note a concerted lack of policy scrutiny of the DLI scheme's lack of results, while Production-Linked Incentive schemes for foundries and assembly stages received quick revisions post notification.

Satya S. Sahu

is a researcher with the Takshashila Institution's High-Tech Geopolitics Programme, Bengaluru

Pranay Kotasthane

is a researcher with the Takshashila Institution's High-Tech Geopolitics Programme, Bengaluru

An overhauled Semiconductor Design-Linked Incentive scheme would fortify India's comparative advantage and augment its forays into other stages of the semiconductor global value chain

Issues with the scheme

Prima facie, the DLI scheme fares well with its focus on providing access to design infrastructure, such as electronic design automation (EDA) tools, alongside financial subsidies for different steps of the chip design process. But there has been lacklustre uptake of the scheme. First, the scheme mandates that beneficiary start-ups maintain their domestic status for at least three years after receiving incentives, and for this they cannot raise more than 50% of their requisite capital via foreign direct investment. This is a significant barrier.

Costs for semiconductor design startups are also significant. Semiconductor R&D usually only pays off in the longer term, and the funding landscape for chip start-ups in India continues to be challenging despite promising IP and business potential. Such capital requirements, combined with the lack of success stories caused by the absence of a mature start-up funding ecosystem for hardware products in India, reduce the risk appetite of domestic investors. Consequently, any shortfall in investment for DLI beneficiary start-ups could be bridged by equity financing bringing in foreign funds, if not for the scheme's riders on ownership.

The relatively modest incentives under the DLI scheme (capped at ₹15 Crore for Product DLI and ₹30 Crore for Deployment Linked Incentive, per application) would not make for a worthwhile trade-off for start-ups standing to lose out on access to crucial long-term funding. It is therefore crucial to delink ownership from the development of semiconductor design and adopt more start-up-friendly investment guidelines. This would also boost their financial stability and provide them global exposure.

The primary aim of the DLI scheme should be to cultivate semiconductor design capabilities in India, with the understanding that home-grown IP will organically evolve as local talent fosters the creation of indigenous companies over time. The scheme needs to be revised to focus on the broader objective of facilitating design capabilities for a wide array of chips within the country, so long as the entity engaging in the design development process is registered in India. The Union government's recent statement, that "(the product) should be an India-designed chip", implies a move in this direction. The financial outlay of the scheme must be enhanced substantially to support this policy shift.

Nodal agency

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing's role as the nodal agency appraising proposals by applicants under the DLI scheme merits a re-look too. As it is also a market player in the Indian chip design sector, clear concerns of a conflict of interest arise, as well as its capacity and suitability to be the implementing and regulating agency. The Karnataka government's Semiconductor Fabless Accelerator Lab (SFAL), with its specific partnerships with the Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association, EDA vendors, IP, and testing companies, could be an appropriate blueprint for an implementing agency for DLI.

A similar agency under the auspices of the India Semiconductor Mission could aim to emulate SFAL's approach and provide affiliated start-ups access to a network of mentors, industry, and financial institutions, in addition to the disbursal of financial incentives under the scheme. It could inspire an expanded focus for a revamped DLI scheme attracting a broader range of semiconductor design start-ups (not just ones ready for volume production) and help them overcome initial hurdles in developing design ideas. A recalibrated policy focused on chip design steered by a capable institution can tolerate a certain failure rate and treat beneficiary start-ups as exploratory risk-taking vehicles to establish India's foothold in this high-tech sector.

The road to safety

Telangana's leniency towards traffic violators is endangering lives

STATE OF PLAY

Serish Nanisetti
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The Telangana government recently announced that traffic rule violators with pending unpaid challans will get discounts ranging between 40% and 90%. This was part of the 30 pre-poll promises made by the Congress in its manifesto. The scheme has been extended till January 31. This is being called a discount scheme but in reality it provides immunity for those violating traffic rules.

The discount scheme comes on the back of a similar decision by the earlier government to delay implementation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019. The penal fee for not wearing a helmet in Telangana is still ₹100. The ₹100 penalty, which came into force in 1988, when factored for inflation, is just under ₹9 in today's terms of purchasing power. Under the amended Motor Vehicles Act, this penalty is ₹1,000 and the violator is disqualified from holding a licence for three months. However, even this amount is not high enough if we take inflation into account.

In 2022, 1,68,491 people were killed on Indian roads and 4,43,366 persons were injured in 4,61,312 accidents. Of these, 7,559 deaths were on Telangana's roads. Just a decade earlier, in 2012, the number of people killed on Indian roads was 1,38,252. That is a 21.87% increase in the number of deaths in 10 years.

Road accidents are avoidable tragedies. Traffic rule violations have been a major reason for the high rates of accidents and fatalities on Indian roads. Rule violations contribute to a high number

of accidents and also lead to more chaos, which has become the norm in urban areas. Traffic gridlocks are often caused by motorists who try to break laws to get ahead. According to the Union Ministry of Roads Transport and Highways data for 2022, overspeeding accounted for 71.2% of the people killed, followed by driving on the wrong side of the road (5.4%). Road rules are sometimes tweaked to ease traffic, but they instead encourage driving on the wrong side of the road. For instance, a few years ago, the Telangana police introduced more U-turns to reduce waiting time at signals. Motorists had to drive until they reached a U-turn on the road. However, where there were no barricades or dividers on the road, motorists frequently cut across the road and drove on the wrong side.

The horror of traffic accidents is no longer limited to words in newspapers. CCTV images regularly become viral on social media. One of the most viral images from recent times showed a red Polo car plunged from the Biodiversity Flyover in Hyderabad and fell on a woman, killing her on the spot. The car was being driven at 104 kmph on a flyover which had a speed limit of 40 kmph. The driver of the vehicle did not face any punitive action despite the accident becoming a viral sensation. Despite such horrific incidents, traffic rule violations are not treated as criminal offences.

Indian roads and highways are becoming wider and smoother and the number of vehicles have increased sharply. This is a dangerous combination in the absence of a firm regulatory system for motorists. Rules exist, but they are not enforced. Enforcing rules more stringently would be the first step towards ensuring road safety. Once the rule violators realise that they are unlikely to get away with it, they are likely to fall in line.

It is not as though finding violators is a challenge as Telangana has one of the highest numbers of CCTV cameras. Hyderabad alone has over a million cameras scanning the city and streets. The video feed is monitored from the Integrated Control and Command Centre on a continuous basis. The State has all the tools to bring order on the roads and ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

The recent truckers' strike against the stringent punishment for hit-and-run cases should be seen in the light of the fact that 18.1% of the road accidents were of this nature. About 30,490 persons were killed in hit-and-run cases and 54,726 were injured in 2022. The new Bharat Nyay Sanhita provides for a 10-year sentence and a fine of up to ₹7 lakh for drivers who flee the accident spot. The Union government has promised consultation with truckers before the law is enforced.

The nature and utility of populist policies are often debated in a democracy but there is little debate required when the lives of citizens are endangered. There can be no space for criminal impunity on Indian roads where there is one death every three and half minutes.

Under junta rule, Myanmar plumbs new depths

Myanmar shares the joint last rank with Syria and North Korea in the civil liberty index

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Nearly three years since Myanmar's military junta overthrew a democratically elected National League for Democracy (NLD) government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, the country is wracked by civil war. While the National Unity Government formed by the NLD – many of whose representatives along with elected parliamentarians are in exile – gave the call for armed action leading to various Peoples Defence Forces taking on the military, several ethnic armed organisations (EAO) have also fought the junta.

Early this month, after months of intense conflict that resulted in the junta losing control over scores of towns and military outposts to a coalition of three EAOs – the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, and the Arakan Army, who called themselves the Three Brotherhood Alliance, a China brokered ceasefire agreement was signed between the alliance and the junta.

But hostilities continue. The prolonged civil war has severely disrupted the economy even as the junta suspended civil liberties and political freedoms following the coup. The number of journalists imprisoned shot up considerably and the Human Development Index plunged after years of growth.

Chart 1 plots Myanmar's electoral democracy index by V-Dem (0: least democratic, 1: most democratic). In 2020, just before the junta took over, this index reached a peak, with Myanmar ranking 101 of 179 nations, better than Malaysia's and India's. In 2022, the rankings plunged to 173, closer to North Korea and Afghanistan.

Chart 2 plots the liberal democracy index by V-Dem, which combines voting rights, freedom of association, and civil liberties (0: least democratic, 1: most democratic). A similar story can be seen here too. The index gradually improved after the Suu Kyi government was elected in 2015 and peaked in 2020 only to drastically fall in the next two years following the coup. The country's ranking in the index dropped from 106 of 179 nations in 2020 to 168 in 2022.

In fact, on the civil liberty index (**Chart 3**), which focuses on the extent to which citizens enjoy civil liberties, Myanmar was assigned a score of 0 in 2022, meaning the country's citizens have no such liberties now. Notably, this score was lower than even the pre-2011 figures – the transition year which saw the military initiating the process of handing over the government to a civilian regime after years of junta rule. The country's ranking in the index dropped from 145 of 167 countries in 2020 to a joint last rank along with Syria and North Korea in 2022.

In the freedom of expression index (**Chart 4**), which measures the extent to which people can voice their opinions in the country (0: least democratic, 1: most democratic), the scores in 2022 plunged to the level seen before 2011. Currently, the country is ranked 171 of 179 nations on this measure.

The number of journalists imprisoned went up from 0 in 2020 to 48 in 2022 – the third highest number of arrests globally after Iran and China (**Chart 5**). This was reflected in the press freedom index (**Chart 6**) – the country ranked 173 of 180 nations in 2022, a sharp drop from the 139th rank it held in 2020, three places above India.

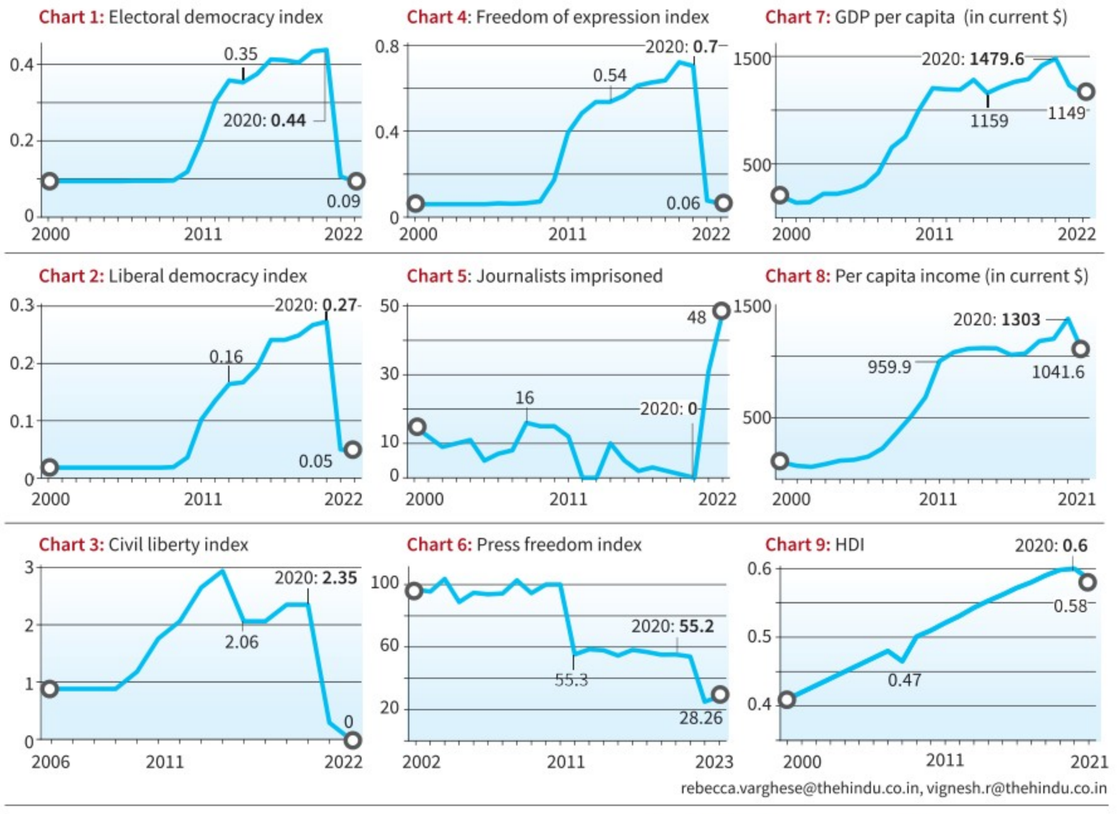
The country's economy has suffered too. The GDP per capita (**Chart 7**) decreased rapidly post the 2020-peak and the per capita income too tapered sharply (**Chart 8**).

Altogether, these took a toll on the Human Development Index which measures health, knowledge and standard of living (**Chart 9**).

From the barrel of a gun

The charts are based on data from Our World in Data, the World Bank, Reporters without Borders and CPJ

Free, at last: Photojournalist Kaung Sett Lin welcomed after he was released from a prison in Myanmar on January 4. Myanmar's military government has imprisoned thousands of political detainees for opposing army rule. AP



rebecca.varghese@thehindu.co.in, vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 24, 1974

U.S. to take on referees' role in W. Asia conflict

Washington, Jan. 23: The U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, yesterday indicated that in future the U.S. would act as a referee in the West Asia conflict rather than simply as supporter of Israel.

At the same time he warned the Arabs that the U.S. in the light of the American sponsored agreement between Egypt and Israel to disengage their forces on the Suez Canal front, expected an early end to the current oil embargo.

"I would... think that failure to end the embargo in a reasonable time would be highly inappropriate and would raise serious questions of confidence in our minds with respect to the Arab nations with whom we have dealt on this issue," he said.

Dr. Kissinger, holding his first press conference since his hectic shuttling last week between Aswan and Jerusalem, said the U.S. was not guarantor of the truce but would inevitably be involved if a new conflict erupted.

"Our judgment of who violated the agreement will affect the course that we would pursue," he said.

Dr. Kissinger volunteered his good offices to arrange a truce between Syria and Israel with the same "seriousness" as the disengagement he negotiated between Israel and Egypt. He confirmed that the Israel-Egypt accord contained a number of unpublished understandings he had presented to both sides. The Soviet Union had been kept informed of the West Asia talks, he said, and praised its work in the Geneva peace conference. – Reuters.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 24, 1924

Castor crop of 1923

The area under castor in 1923 is estimated at 3,39,500 acres as compared with 3,18,900 acres estimated on the same date last year or an increase of about 6 per cent. Last year's estimate was about 3 per cent below the actuals. There is an increase of about 44 per cent over last year in the upland portion of Kistna, Bellary and Anantapur districts due to the favourable early rainfall, which was, however, insufficient for food crops. Elsewhere, except in Godavari and Salem, there is a general reduction in area which is greatest in Guntur, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chittoor, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly.

From Page One

Rahul booked for 'violence' during yatra

Earlier in the day, Mr. Sarma directed Director General of Police Gyanendra Pratap Singh to register a case against Mr. Gandhi for "provoking" a crowd that broke a police barricade erected to prevent the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra vehicles from entering Guwahati.

Mr. Sarma said the "Naxalite" behaviour of the crowd was against the "Assamese culture" in the peaceful State.

"Such Naxalite tactics are completely alien to our culture. I have instructed @DGPAssamPolice to register a case against your leader @RahulGandhi for provoking the crowd & use the footage you have posted on your handles as the evidence," Mr. Sarma wrote on X, reacting to a video posted by Youth Congress national president B.V. Srinivas.

The Chief Minister later posted a video on X as proof to claim Mr. Gandhi and Jitendra Singh, the Congress in-charge for Assam, provoked the people to attack the police personnel on duty.

"There was a barricade here. We have removed it," Mr. Gandhi was heard saying in the video while Mr. Singh said, "You all have removed the barricade. It is our victory."

Addressing presspersons near Guwahati, Mr. Gandhi said: "I don't get intimidated once I have made up my mind to fight for an ideology, whether you abuse, disturb, or thrash me. I fight for truth."

Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah and party MLA Jakir Hussain Sikdar sustained minor injuries during a scuffle between police personnel and Congress workers near a bypass, the designated route, on the southern edge of Guwahati. A few policemen were injured too.

Mr. Gandhi said, "The yatra has become Assam's main issue. Thwarting a visit to a temple and a college and not allowing padayatra are intimidation tactics but we are not afraid of them."
(With PTI inputs)

Myanmar plane overshoots runway in Mizoram, 8 hurt

Over 90 soldiers who crossed into the country to escape resistance forces were to be flown out; the injured were taken to a health centre in Lengpui, near Aizawl, to be treated for minor injuries

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A Myanmar Air Force cargo plane sent to Mizoram to evacuate 92 Myanmarese soldiers overshot the runway of the Lengpui airport near the State's capital, Aizawl, on Tuesday.

The Y-8 aircraft broke into two and eight of its 14 crew members were injured. They were taken to the Lengpui Primary Health Centre for treatment for minor injuries, officials said.

Out of control: Security personnel inspecting a Myanmar Air Force plane that broke into two on Tuesday after it skidded off the runway at Lengpui Airport near Aizawl in Mizoram. AFP

Tabletop runway

Lengpui is about 30 km from Aizawl and the airport's 2,500-metre tabletop runway, one of three such in India, demands precision landing. The other tabletop runways are in Kozhikode and Mangaluru.

"The aircraft crashed after overshooting the runway at about 10.20 a.m. It was supposed to pick up some 50-60 Myanmar soldiers who crossed over into [southern Mizoram's] Lawngtlai district to escape the resistance forces in their country's Chin State," a police officer said from Aizawl, declining to be quoted.

Officials quoting the airport's Air Traffic Control said the runway was closed and all flights were cancelled for the day.

For their safety

Several batches of Myanmar soldiers have fled to Mizoram after extremist groups aligned with the exiled National Unity Government overran their camps. The first group of soldiers crossed into Champhai district in November and December, after which the action shifted to areas bordering the Lawngtlai district.

On each occasion, the Myanmar soldiers have surrendered before the security forces in Mizoram. The personnel of the paramilitary Assam Rifles guarding the India-Myanmar border were subsequently evacuated from the border area by helicopters, initially to Moreh in Manipur and then to Lengpui.

A Myanmar Air Force aircraft evacuated 184 of the 276 Myanmar soldiers who crossed into Mizoram on January 17 after their camps were captured by armed pro-democracy ethnic groups.

The aircraft had come from Mandalay and flew the soldiers out to Sittwe in two sorties.

SC takes serious note of Registry not listing Adani Power case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A case concerning Adani Power found a place in the list of cases scheduled to be heard by a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice Aniruddha Bose on Wednesday, hours after it was found in the open court on Tuesday that the matter was not listed for unspecified reasons.

Appearing before the Bench including Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar, senior advocate Dushyant Dave, who appears for the opposite party in the case, Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., drew the court's attention to the "very disturbing" absence of the case in the day's list.

Mr. Dave said the top court Registry, on enquiring, had said they were "under direction not to list the case".

"Why? At whose behest? Directed by whom?" Justice Bose asked incredulously. Mr. Dave said he did not have an answer to that.

"The court proposes, the Registry disposes. This cannot be done in the High Courts. When Registry defies court orders, should it not be viewed seriously? You should pass a judicial order," Mr. Dave submitted to the Bench. He recounted how another Bench of the top court led by Justice A.S. Oka had to recently issue notice to the Registry in a similar turn of events.

"All this speaks very poorly of us as an institution... This case should be listed today itself," the senior lawyer said.

The Bench assured Mr. Dave that the case would be listed on January 24.

In January 2023, the court had sought a report from its Registry after a letter from advocate-on-record Kartik Seth, for Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.

An application had sought the payment of ₹1,376.35 crore as late payment surcharge "outstanding" since June 30, 2022. The letter, however, alleged that the application was filed in a case already decided by the court in 2020.

French journalist receives notice over 'malicious reporting, visa violations'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citing "malicious reportage" and visa violations, the Union Home Ministry has served notice on a French journalist seeking an explanation why the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card allotted to her should not be cancelled.

The development comes days before the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron, who is the chief guest at the Republic Day parade this year.

The journalist, Vanessa Dougnac, a French national, is married to an Indian and has been living in India for 22 years. She writes for French publications such as *Le Point* and *La Croix*.

A government source said the journalist has been on the radar for several instances of visa violations for the past year and a half.

The French Embassy had raised the issue earlier with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The French government had also raised the matter during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Paris in July 2023, it is learnt.

> I have never engaged in any acts that are in any manner prejudicial to Indian interests as is being alleged.
>
> **VANESSA DOUGNAC**
> Journalist

The notice served by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) alleged that Ms. Dougnac's reports created a "biased negative perception about India".

The source said the system picked up several visa violations and then investigated her past record. She came to India on a journalist visa but subsequently got the OCI card.

The visa violations include travels to Ladakh and Nepal (from India) through different border points. Foreign journalists are not allowed to undertake such trips without special permits.

The source also added that she covered Naxal-hit areas in 2008 and did negative stories on atrocities against Christians. Further, she did a series of reports on South Asia - Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh - from India.

The notice was sent to her on January 19 and she has been asked to furnish a reply by February 2.

Denying the allegations, Ms. Dougnac said in a statement on Tuesday, "I can confirm that I have received a notice and that I deny all the allegations and imputations made therein against me and my conduct. India is my home, a country which I deeply love and respect, and I have never engaged in any acts that are in any manner prejudicial to Indian interests as is being alleged."

Ladakh's territorial control should be till Gilgit-Baltistan: outfits

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Ladakh's main socio-political groupings, Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), have asked the Centre to extend Ladakh's territorial control up to Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and ensure internal stability by granting Statehood with guarantees of the Sixth Schedule to fight the threat from China.

In a fresh memorandum submitted to the Union Home Ministry this month, the LAH and KDA have given detailed reasons for seeking Statehood and special status under the Sixth Schedule for the region, which was carved out as a Union Territory from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.

It highlighted that Ladakh holds a significant position for strategic location vis-a-vis China and Pakistan. "Empowering the locals will foster stability. The understanding of the locals of the harsh terrain and the geography of Ladakh has always proved helpful in the military and logistic operations," it said.

'Reserve seats'

The two socio-political amalgams underlined that the territory of Ladakh extends to Gilgit-Baltistan.

"Attempts should be made to include this area into Ladakh as well and just like the UT of J&K, seats should be reserved for the same," it said.

Ladakh, which is run by two hill councils from Leh and Kargil, has demanded a full-fledged legislature. It said granting legislative powers in the form of a legislature to the locals will enable effective governance and development and foster the federal structure of India.

The memorandum also highlighted Ladakh's ecologically fragile and sensitive areas. It also seeks an increase in Lok Sabha seats from one to two, besides allocating one seat in Rajya Sabha.

January 22 is now part of a 'widened' Republic Day celebrations, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shedding light: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Parakram Divas celebrations at Red Fort in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that Republic Day celebrations have now "widened" and the "auspicious" festivities of January 22, when the consecration of the Ram Temple took place at Ayodhya, have also become part of the "festival of democracy".

In his address at the Red Fort here on 'Parakaram Divas', which marks the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Mr. Modi said that since the announcement of 'Parakram Divas', Republic Day celebrations had widened to begin from January 23 to Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on January 30.

"And now, the auspicious festivities of January 22 have also become a part of this festival of democracy," Mr. Modi said.

"The last few days of January are inspirational to India's belief, cultural consciousness, democracy, and patriotism," he said.

The Prime Minister recalled Monday's event in Ayodhya, when he said the entire world witnessed a "cultural consciousness awakening in India".

On Bose's work, Mr. Modi said: "He [Bose] not only opposed the British but also gave a suitable reply to people who raised questions on Indian civilisation. This new awareness has become the energy for creating a developed India and [for] today's youth stepping out of the mentality of slavery."

Why no holiday for Netaji event, asks Mamata

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday asked why a holiday would not be declared on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose when a holiday had been observed for the inauguration of Ram Temple. "I am ashamed that a holiday is given for a political campaign but not for people who have given their lives for the country," she said at an event.

Delhi CEO's office clarifies on note about election date

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As an internal note circulated by the office of Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer mentioning April 16 as the tentative "poll date" to help officials schedule various activities "in the build-up" to the Lok Sabha election raised eyebrows, the CEO's office on Tuesday clarified that the date was "only for reference purpose" for election officials.

The actual schedule for the election shall be announced by the EC at an appropriate time, according to a statement issued by the CEO's office.

French marching contingent at Republic Day parade has members from India and Nepal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Six Indians will be part of the 95-member French Foreign Legion contingent that will march on the Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Republic Day. French President Emmanuel Macron is the chief guest at the parade this year. The contingent also has six members from Nepal.

The French marching contingent will be accompanied by a 33-member French military band. "It is a pleasure and honour to be here... We have already done two training [rehearsals], so we should be ready for Republic Day," Captain Noel Louis, Unit Commander of Second Foreign Infantry Regiment, said during a media interaction on Tuesday.

European flair: The marching contingent of the French Foreign Legion takes part in rehearsals for the upcoming Republic Day Parade, in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Two Rafale fighter jets and one Airbus-330 multi-role tanker transport aircraft of the French Air and Space Force will be part of the flypast.

The French Foreign Legion is an elite military corps open to foreigners to serve in the French Army with certain conditions. At present, it has almost 9,500 officers and legionnaires, comprising around 140 nationalities, said Captain Louis.

An advanced radio frequency monitoring system, drone jammers, and medium-range surface-to-air missile will be displayed for the first time at the parade on Friday, Major-General Sumit Mehta, Chief of Staff of Army's Delhi Area, said.

An all-woman tri-services contingent will also take part for the first time, he said. The contingent has women personnel from the Army's Corps of Military Police, the Navy, and the Air Force. "Eighty per cent of activities at the parade will be done by women," he said.
(With PTI inputs)

Three railway staffers run over by local train

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Three railway staffers were run over by a Mumbai-bound local train near Vasai town in Palghar district when they were engaged in the task of fixing a signalling system fault, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday night between Vasai Road and Naigaon stations when the train was going towards Churchgate terminus in south Mumbai, they said.

The Western Railway said it was an unfortunate incident, and ordered an investigation into it.

APPEAL

Seven years old Siddharth is suffering from B cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and needs Chemotherapy and Radiation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No:60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027.**
E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

WWS

Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra is about five pillars of justice, says Rahul

Congress leader says the five pillars are justice for youth, women, farmers, labourers, and in terms of participation, and they will provide strength to the country; party to hold a series of workers' conventions to prepare for the Lok Sabha election

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/NEW DELHI

Amid the war of words after the Assam government denied permission to the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra to enter Guwahati, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the main idea of the yatra was to deliver "*panch nyay*" (five pillars of justice).

At a press conference at Hajo, about 35 km from Guwahati, Mr. Gandhi said the five pillars of justice would give strength to the country. They were justice for youth, women, farmers and labourers, and justice in terms of participation.

The Congress will put forward its programme for the five pillars of justice over the next month, the Congress leader added.

Asked about a wave in Lord Ram's name after the consecration ceremony at Ayodhya, Mr. Gandhi said, "It is nothing like that there is a wave... This is the BJP's political programme and Narendra Modi*ji* did a function and a show there. It's good, but we have told you, we have clarity about our programme which is about five justices to strengthen the country."

Long march: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a public meeting during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, in Barpeta, Assam on Tuesday. PTI

Talking about the Opposition Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), Mr. Gandhi said that on one side, there was Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and on the other, there was the INDIA bloc which had 60% of the country's votes.

Leadership question

On the leadership issue and prime ministerial face, he said it would be discussed and decided after the Lok Sabha election.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will launch the party's preparation for the 2024 Lok Sabha election by addressing a workers' convention in Hyderabad on Thursday.

The Telangana meeting is the first in a series of conventions that are being planned in several States during which Mr. Kharge will interact with State-level office-bearers of the party.

A State-level workers' convention will be held in Uttarakhand on January 28 and in Odisha a day later. On February 3, Delhi will host such a convention, followed by Kerala on February 4, Himachal Pradesh on February 10, Punjab on February 11, Tamil Nadu on February 13, and Jharkhand on February 15.

"Our workers are the backbone of our party. For the 2024 election, Congress will be holding State-level workers' conventions in the coming few weeks in various States, where Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge*ji* will preside over meetings of office-bearers from the booth- to the State-level and further energise our dedicated cadre!" Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal had said in a social media post on January 16.

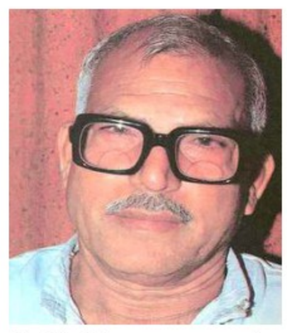
On eve of birth centenary, Karpoori Thakur named for Bharat Ratna honour

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day before the birth centenary celebrations of former Bihar Chief Minister and socialist leader Karpoori Thakur, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday announced that he would be awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

"The President has been pleased to award Bharat Ratna to Shri Karpoori Thakur (posthumously)," a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X that "this prestigious recognition is a testament to his enduring efforts as a champion for the marginalised and a stalwart of equality and justice".

Son of a marginal farmer from the Nai (barber) community, he went on to serve as the Chief Minister of Bihar twice – first between December 1970 and June 1971 as part of the Bharatiya Kranti Dal and later between December 1977 and April 1979 from the Janata Party. Named



President Murmu announced the award for Karpoori Thakur on Tuesday. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Jannayak, or People's Leader, Mr. Thakur was a freedom fighter, incarcerated during the Quit India movement in 1942, and has been seen as the architect of much of the social justice plank in politics.

He was part of the anti-Emergency movement along with the other key socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan.

During Thakur's Chief Ministership in 1977, the Mungeri Lal Commission submitted its report recommending that backward classes be reclassified as extremely backward classes and backward classes. The report was implemented in 1978. This paved the way for 26% reservation for them in government services in Bihar in November 1978.

This reclassification was seen as a precursor to the Mandal Commission report that recommended 27% reservations for Other Backward Classes, implemented in the 1990s changing the face of Indian politics forever. More immediately, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar used the "Karpoori Thakur formula" to classify Backward Classes into two categories to establish himself as the leader of the EBCs to counter friend-turned-foe-turned-ally Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad.

The Bharat Ratna to Mr. Thakur, therefore, could not just help the BJP counter the effects of the caste survey in Bihar but also the Congress's repeated demands for a nationwide caste census.

Mr. Kumar expressed happiness over the Bharat Ratna to Mr. Thakur saying that it has been a long-time demand of the JD(U).

(With inputs from Patna)

Shiv Sainiks must throw traitors out of politics: Uddhav

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader says Prime Minister Narendra Modi has neglected Ayodhya during his first term

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said that just as Lord Ram had killed King Vali, workers of his party should put paid to the political career of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who had appropriated the Sena.

Addressing a party conclave in Nashik, he called upon the Shiv Sainiks to end the public life of "traitors" and their master who deserted the Shiv Sena and betrayed the saffron flag.

"We will have to throw out today's Vali, who has taken away our Shiv Sena. Make a commitment to politically defeat this Vali, who has taken our Shiv Sena," he said.

He said Shiv Sainiks would expose the masks of "Ravanas donning the masks of Lord Ram". "Lord Ram is not the property of a single party. If you think so, we will have to make 'BJP-*mukt Shri* Ram'," he said.

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of neglecting Ayodhya during his first term and filing false cases against Shiv Sena leaders, Mr. Thackeray criticised the Prime Minister's global travels during his initial five-year tenure.

Nitish to share stage with Rahul during Bihar leg of Nyay Yatra

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

For the first time since the formation of the INDIA bloc in 2023 in Patna, Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) president Nitish Kumar will be seen on stage with former Congress president Rahul Gandhi at a public meeting, when the latter's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra reaches in Purnea in the State.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav may skip the event, since he has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate on the same day. A key Left ally in the State, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), will take part with its general secretary, Dipankar Bhattacharya, attending the event.

> Though it is a Cong. initiative, it has acquired the shape of an INDIA bloc event, which is a positive development.. all parties more or less have been taking similar positions on all issues
>
> **DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA**
> CPI(M-L) general secretary

The yatra will enter Bihar on January 29 from Siliguri in West Bengal and will cover 425 km across seven districts over four days in the State before heading to Jharkhand.

If West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee does not join the yatra while it is in that State, then the Purnea meeting will be the first public event with the INDIA allies.

For now, her party, the Trinamool Congress, has taken a position that it will not participate in the yatra till a seat-sharing arrangement is reached.

"Rahul*ji* and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra have garnered a lot of love and affection across the north-east. People of Bihar will also welcome him with open arms. We have invited all INDIA bloc leaders and we hope that everyone will participate," Bihar Congress chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh said.

Many within the INDIA bloc see the Purnea rally as a positive sign.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Bhattacharya, who has been advocating the urgent need for the bloc to reach out to people, said, "Though it is a Congress initiative, it has acquired the shape of an INDIA bloc event, which is a positive development."

He underlined that though the seat-sharing arrangements are not in place, there are no public divisions within the bloc. "All the parties more or less have been taking similar positions on all issues, including the Ram Temple ceremony, which shows cohesion," he said.

All is well, says RJD as Nitish meets Governor

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Amid buzz of rift between two ruling alliance partners of Bihar – the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Janata Dal (U) – and the latter's chief Nitish Kumar's possible switch to the BJP-led NDA fold, Mr. Kumar, along with a Cabinet colleague, Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, on Tuesday met Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar.

Mr. Kumar, though, did not say anything on the meeting but Hindustan Awam Morcha (Secular) chief and former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said "*khela hobe*" while the RJD leaders said "all is well". After paying floral tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to mark his 127th birth anniversary, Mr. Kumar went to the Raj Bhawan to meet the Governor. The meeting lasted over 40 minutes.

The RJD leaders said, "The meet might be for Cabinet reshuffle or regarding pending appointment of vice-chancellors of several universities".

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
RFP Tender Notice No.:91/2023-24/CE (GVMC)/SE(Mech)/EE (Mech)/DB/Dt: 23.01.2024
Number of Works : 1, Legacy Qty - 2.51 Lakh M.T
Tender published Dt. : 24-01-2024, Closing Date: 07.02.2024 @ 4.00 P.M.,
Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in,
O/o the S.E (Mech), Cell No.8187899151 For Commissioner

Lawyer asked to appear before CBI in Mahua case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The CBI has asked lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai to appear before it on Thursday in connection with its probe against former Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in a Lokpal-referred corruption complaint against her, officials said Tuesday.

Mr. Dehadrai, who was once close to Ms. Moitra, had levelled serious corruption allegations against Ms. Moitra which were denied by her, they said. He was asked to appear before the agency on Thursday to record his version.

The CBI has started a probe against Ms. Moitra on a reference from the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey had approached the Lokpal with a complaint against Ms. Moitra over allegations that she had taken bribes to raise questions in Parliament.

PM meets recipients of national children's awards in New Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted with recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PM National Children's Awards) and engaged in a freewheeling conversation with them on issues ranging from sports to solar power.

Mr. Modi presented souvenirs to each awardee at his official residence in the national capital, following which the children shared details of their achievements due to which they have been selected for the award, an official statement said.

The children also asked him several questions. Responding to one of them, the Prime Minister spoke about his interest in music of all kinds and how it helps him in meditation.

On being asked about the launch on Monday of 'Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana', a scheme to install rooftop solar systems on one crore houses, Mr. Modi spoke about how people will benefit from this scheme.

Narendra Modi

He also discussed with the children the significance of the day and told them about 'Parakram Diwas', which is the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Centre confers the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar award on children aged between five and 18 for their exceptional achievements. Each awardee is given a medal and a certificate.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise and group company of IndianOil)
Regd. Office: 536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018
Website: www.cpcl.co.in ; Email id: investors@cpcl.co.in, shankarp@cpcl.co.in
Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 (₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2023	30.09.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023	31.12.2023	30.09.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	**Total income from operations**	**20456.41**	**20014.83**	**19216.12**	**58459.06**	**69571.41**	**90923.39**	**20456.42**	**20012.13**	**19216.39**	**58456.57**	**69563.66**	**90915.49**
2.	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)**	**481.05**	**1587.86**	**186.26**	**2816.35**	**3421.07**	**4808.70**	**486.34**	**1592.71**	**187.51**	**2834.67**	**3410.20**	**4806.42**
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	481.05	1587.86	186.26	2816.35	3421.07	4808.70	486.34	1592.71	187.51	2834.67	3410.20	4806.42
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	359.99	1190.56	142.95	2098.87	2529.63	3533.81	365.28	1195.41	144.20	2117.19	2518.76	3531.53
5.	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**359.99**	**1190.56**	**142.95**	**2098.87**	**2529.63**	**3520.51**	**365.28**	**1195.41**	**144.20**	**2117.19**	**2518.76**	**3518.13**
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				7578.82	4891.13	5882.01				7791.26	5076.77	6076.13
8.	Securities Premium Account				250.04	250.04	250.04				250.04	250.04	250.04
9.	Networth				7977.77	5290.08	6280.96				8190.21	5475.72	6475.08
10.	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				1585.00	2730.00	1585.00				1585.00	2730.00	1585.00
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 {2022:50,00,00,000} Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.60	0.45	1.35	0.60	1.35	0.67	0.58	0.43	1.30	0.58	1.30	0.65
13.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)												
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	24.17	79.95	9.60	140.95	169.87	237.31	24.53	80.28	9.68	142.18	169.14	237.16
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	24.17	79.95	9.60	140.95	169.87	237.31	24.53	80.28	9.68	142.18	169.14	237.16
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	8.74	17.94	3.24	11.49	5.80	2.39	8.83	18.01	3.63	11.57	5.83	2.39
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	13.65	27.78	4.02	19.98	16.60	17.30	13.76	27.85	4.03	20.09	16.55	17.29

Note:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in
2 For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) and can be acessed on www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Rohit Kumar Agrawala
Director (Finance)
DIN: 10048961

Place : Chennai
Date : January 22, 2024

INBRIEF

Right-wing activists attack FTII students in Pune

Right-wing activists entered the campus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, on Tuesday and allegedly assaulted students over a banner condemning the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid, the police said. President of the FTII Students' Association (FSA) Mankap Nokwoham was among those who were attacked, the association said. The banner with the words "Remember Babri, Death of Constitution" had been put up by the FSA on the campus on Monday, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Sandip Gill. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against unidentified persons at Deccan police station under IPC Sections 143, 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 427 (mischief causing damage) and other provisions, said Vipin Hasabnis, senior inspector. PTI

Three cubs born to Namibian cheetah at Kuno Park

A Namibian cheetah has given birth to three cubs at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, weeks after three cubs were born to another feline. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav shared the news on X, saying, "Kuno's new cubs! Namibian Cheetah named Jwala has given birth to three cubs. This comes just weeks after Namibian Cheetah Aasha gave birth to her cubs." He further said in the post, "Congratulations to all wildlife frontline warriors and wildlife lovers across the country. May Bharat's wildlife thrive." On January 3, officials reported that Namibian cheetah Aasha had given birth to three cubs. Before this, Jwala had given birth to four cubs last March. However, only one of them survived. The first batch of eight cheetahs was introduced in India in September 2022. PTI

Ram Temple event 'most unforgettable' moment: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a letter to President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday, termed the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya as the "most unforgettable" moment in his life, and the event as one that would "create new paradigms of development and success". He was responding to the President's letter on Sunday, the eve of the consecration ceremony, wherein she had said that she could only contemplate "the unique civilisational journey that will be accomplished with each step taken by you in the hallowed precincts".

In his two-page letter, Mr. Modi struck an emotional tone over the consecration. "I have returned with an Ayodhya in my heart, an Ayodhya which can never be separated from me," he wrote.

Mr. Modi said that when he received Ms. Murmu's letter, he had been in a "different state of mind", and her letter gave him immense support and strength in handling these feelings and in coming to terms with them.

"I visited Ayodhya Dham as a pilgrim. My mind was overwhelmed with many emotions after going to the holy land where such a confluence of faith and history has taken place," he said.

Surging crowds break through temple cordon

U.P. government says roughly three lakh offer prayers; security personnel had a tough time controlling crowd; State has deployed over 11,000 police personnel to ensure order

Mayank Kumar
AYODHYA

Thousands of devotees from across the country, waiting for a glimpse of the Lord Ram idol in Ayodhya, broke through the security cordon on several occasions on Tuesday as the Ram Temple was opened for the general public a day after the consecration presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Devotees standing outside the temple gates from early morning, carrying flags of Lord Ram and chanting "Jai Shree Ram", gave a tough time to security personnel deployed to control the crowd.

At least four persons fainted as the crowd forced its way towards the temple. The Uttar Pradesh government said roughly three lakh devotees offered prayers to Ram Lalla on Tuesday even as a large number of devotees were waiting outside the temple.

"I waited for seven hours to offer my prayers to Lord Ram. It is the moment to cherish for lifetime. The security arrangements were good, but it could have been better, if the administration would have restricted the movement of outsiders in Ayodhya," said Umakant Mishra, a local. Amid the influx of a large number of devotees, senior State officials, including Special Director-General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar and the Principal Secretary (Home) were present inside the *sanctum sanctorum* to manage the crowd.

To pay obeisance: A massive crowd at the main gateway of the Ram temple complex as it opened its doors for the general public a day after the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on Tuesday. PTI

Uttar Pradesh deployed more than 11,000 police personnel to control the situation. "The atmosphere inside the *sanctum sanctorum* is electrifying, I haven't seen such a scene in my lifetime," said Prabhakar Upadhyay, who came from Sitapur.

BJP president J.P. Nadda's scheduled visit to Ayodhya on Wednesday has been postponed and no prominent party leader will be visiting Ayodhya in the coming days.

Aerial survey

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted an aerial survey of the temple, and directed officials to take all steps to control the crowd. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya appealed to devotees to maintain discipline while offering prayers and inside the temple premises. "There is a huge crowd of devotees in Ayodhya Dham. I appeal to everyone to have darshan with discipline," he said.

Amid the sea of devotees trying to reach Ayodhya, the Uttar Pradesh Road Transport Corporation suspended many of its services to the temple town. Since noon, most of the the buses coming to Ayodhya were diverted for the day. Private vehicles trying to enter Ayodhya were also diverted from the Barabanki Highway.

11 held in Agra for hoisting saffron flags atop mosque

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Eleven persons were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly hoisting saffron flags atop a mosque at Tajganj in Agra district on Monday, triggering tensions in the locality.

They have been charged under Sections 147 (mischief or riot), 148 (rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), 505(B) (creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill will between classes), and 505(C) (offences committed in place of worship) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

"We have sent them to court and investigation is on," Tajganj Station House Officer Jasveer Singh told *The Hindu*.

The accused, who were part of a procession taken out on Monday evening to celebrate the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, climbed the Shahi mosque, hoisted saffron flags and raised religious slogans.

Soon after, local youth from the Muslim community gathered at the site in protest.

Police teams from neighbouring areas reached the spot and assured the protesters that action would be taken against the accused.

A first information report (FIR) was registered on the basis of a complaint from the caretaker of the mosque.

22 'Vaibhav' Fellows to build long-term research synergy

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Indian scientists based abroad will spend time in premier institutions in the country

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) on Tuesday announced the first batch of Fellows of the Vaibhav scheme meant to attract Indian-origin scientists based abroad for short-term collaboration.

Twenty-two scientists, mostly based in North American and European institutes such as the California Institute of Technology, the University of Oxford, the University of Michigan, the University of Geneva, the University of Waterloo, Canada, and the University of Oslo, will spend anywhere from a month or two annually for a maximum of three years at Indian institutes such as the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research, and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Two "distinguished fellowships" were offered to the senior professors Arogyaswami Paulraj (Stanford University) and Jitendra Malik (University of California, Berkley).

Those selected will get a stipend of ₹4 lakh a month and accommodation. The host institutions will get a research grant to enable them to host the fellows. The fellows are expected to begin a project, technology start-up, within three years along with the host institute, build long-term research connections with the institute, collaborate with the host faculty and bring in new ideas to the field in Indian universities and research settings.

The scheme, first set in motion in June 2023 and credited to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to involve the Indian diaspora more closely to further India's development, bears striking similarities to another scheme, called Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty (Vajra) scheme, initiated in 2018.

SII, CEPI network to boost production of vaccines globally

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Serum Institute of India (SII) will join a growing CEPI network of vaccine producers in the Global South to support more rapid, agile, and equitable responses to future public health disease outbreaks. CEPI – Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations – is an innovative global partnership working to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats.

CEPI has articulated an aspirational goal: vaccines should be ready for initial authorisation and manufacturing at scale within 100 days of recognition of a pandemic pathogen, when appropriate.

The idea is to combine the process of delivering a vaccine within 100 days with improved surveillance providing earlier detection and warning, and swift use of interventions such as testing, contact tracing and social distancing to suppress disease transmission. According to CEPI, this would give the world a better chance of containing and controlling future pathogenic threats and averting the type of catastrophic global public health and socio-economic impacts caused by COVID-19.

HC withdraws order allowing termination of pregnancy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday recalled its January 4 order permitting a widow to terminate her then 29-week-old pregnancy as she was going through "trauma" and showing "suicidal tendencies" after the death of her husband. It said the woman, who is into 32 weeks of gestation, can go to either the AIIMS or any Central or State hospital to undergo delivery.

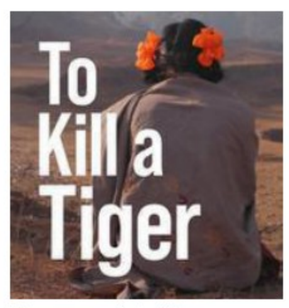
"If the petitioner is inclined to give the newborn child in adoption, then the Centre shall ensure that the process of adoption takes place," it ordered.

Oscars: film set in India nominated for best documentary

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

"*To Kill a Tiger*", set in a small Indian village, was on Tuesday nominated for the Best Documentary feature at the 2024 Academy Awards. A Canadian production, *To Kill a Tiger*, is directed by Delhi-born Nisha Pahuja, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker based in Toronto. It had its world premiere at Toronto International Film Festival 2022 where it won the Amplify Voices Award for Best Canadian Feature Film.

The film follows Ranjit's battle to find justice for his 13-year-old daughter who was abducted and sexually assaulted by three men.



The poster of the film.

"Ranjit goes to the police, and the men are arrested. But Ranjit's relief is short-lived, as the villagers and their leaders launch a sustained campaign to force the family to drop the charges," according to the website of the film.

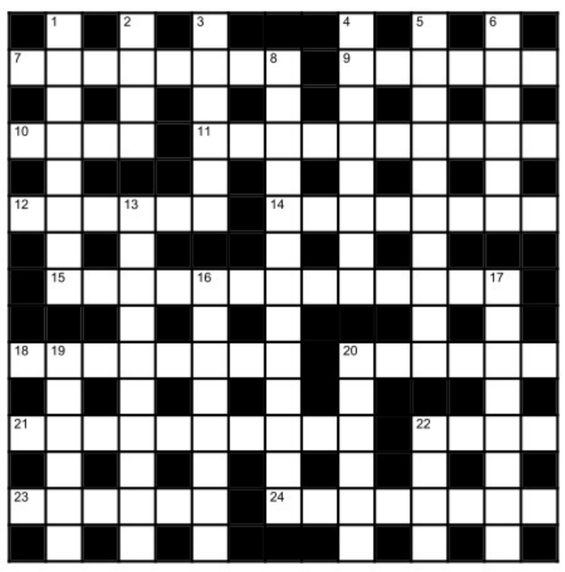
The Academy Awards will be held on March 10.

TH CROSSWORD + 14079

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Wretched approach taking state backwards (8)
9 Hunter's gesture inspiring one man (6)
10 Some kid likes South Indian rice cake (4)
11 Anxious hoarder acquires collection in exchange (5,5)
12 Counter about air-conditioning in transport (6)
14 Stress over driving licence, say in collision (8)
15 People with raw talent and so dim (5,8)
18 Romantic quality inside Ali Smith's books (8)
20 Upset small intestine consuming breakfast cereal (6)
21 Hot princess sat capturing selfie initially? Sick! (10)
22 Study at the end of the day? Say No! (4)
23 Hand over and call it a day (4,2)
24 Instrument covered in blood (8)

Down

1 Spooner's joke about vehicle for Mars, say (5,3)
2 Standard honorific respectfully inscribed in introductions! (4)
3 Missing fellow collects stamps (6)
4 Possibly coin term for what we used to call a secretary (8)
5 Folly of brat disrespectful at new Church (10)
6 Now, drugs do make one impassive (6)
8 Succinct Rama *krithi,* ultimately performed in Saint Tyagaraja's domain (8,5)
13 Europeans, say, about university / college joined by Chinese (10)
16 They keep locks secure? (8)
17 Fracture after runner shifts sides initially (8)
19 Died out essentially through mutated gene disease (6)
20 A time for siesta? (6)
22 Duck biting river weed (4)

SUDOKU

						3	4	
		2	6	4				1
3		8			7		9	
	1			7				9
			3		1			
7				6			1	
	7		9			8		4
6				3	2	9		
	5	9						

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	L	P	A	C	A	■	S	C	O	R	N	F	U	L
N	■	E	■	H	■	■	■	O	■	E	■	A	■	I
K	E	R	N	E	L	■	T	U	R	G	E	N	E	V
H	■	G	■	C	■	■	■	C	■	E	■	C	■	E
■	L	O	O	K	H	I	G	H	A	N	D	L	O	W
■	■	L	■	S	■	N	■	P	■	T	■	U	■	I
P	E	A	S	I	N	A	P	O	D	■	U	B	E	R
A	■	■	■	N	■	N	■	T	■	S	■	■	■	E
S	I	T	E	■	E	U	C	A	L	Y	P	T	U	S
S	■	A	■	C	■	T	■	T	■	M	■	O	■	■
W	I	N	D	O	W	S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	■
O	■	T	■	F	■	H	■	■	■	H	■	E	■	O
R	A	R	E	F	I	E	D	■	P	O	N	D	E	R
D	■	I	■	E	■	L	■	■	■	N	■	U	■	C
S	E	C	R	E	T	L	Y	■	M	Y	O	P	I	A

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	4	8	6	3	9	2	1
2	6	8	1	4	9	3	5	7
9	3	1	5	7	2	8	4	6
3	2	7	6	1	5	4	9	8
1	4	5	9	8	7	2	6	3
8	9	6	2	3	4	1	7	5
6	1	2	4	5	8	7	3	9
4	8	3	7	9	6	5	1	2
7	5	9	3	2	1	6	8	4

FAITH

Dharmas from Ramayana

When Kaikeyi wanted Rama to go to forest, He was not perturbed. Sage Valmiki says His face had not turned red but was like a lotus just blossomed. Vadagudi Sri Sundarama Dikshithar said in a discourse that Rama asked Kaikeyi to instruct her son Bharatha to render service to King Dasaratha as a son has to take care of his parents, especially in old age. Rama said that is the dharma (*Sahi Dharma: Sanatana:*).

Lakshmana was burning with anger at Rama's banishment. When he rebuked Dasaratha, Kaikeyi and Bharatha, Rama said, "I am only obeying my father's command, and it is a great virtue".

When Rama informed Kousalya about His going to the forest, she grieved and said she would have been better off with the ill luck of not having a child and being called a barren woman. She insisted on accompanying Rama to the forest, but Rama pacified her and told her that it was the bounden duty of a woman to render service to her husband. She can reach swargaloka through this and need not perform anything else. Kousalya blessed Rama that the dharma of upholding His father's words (*Pithru vakya paripalanam*) will shower all good to Him. She told Rama that he would be protected by all the good deeds that she had done.

ALMATY

At least 50 injured in earthquake on China-Kyrgyzstan border

AFP

At least 50 persons were injured after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck along the mountainous China-Kyrgyzstan border on Tuesday. Local authorities dispatched a team to the quake's epicentre, Beijing's *Xinhua* state news agency said, while around 800 persons were on standby for any large disaster relief mission. AFP

BRUSSELS

NATO signs $1.2-bn agreement to acquire 2,00,000 artillery shells

REUTERS

NATO on Tuesday signed contracts worth $1.2 billion to acquire over 2,00,000 155-millimetre artillery shells in the face of Russia's invasion on Ukraine. The latest deals — signed with French firm Nexter and Germany's Junghans Microtec — will start deliveries to NATO members at the end of 2025. AFP

BEIJING

Toll in China landslide rises to 31 while more remain missing

AFP

Thirty-one persons were confirmed dead while several remained missing on Tuesday after a landslide in a remote, mountainous part of China's southwestern province of Yunnan, Chinese state media reported. The disaster struck just before 6 a.m. on Monday in the village of Liangshui in the northeastern part of Yunnan. AP

CARACAS

Venezuela arrests 32 in alleged plot to kill President Maduro

REUTERS

Venezuelan authorities have arrested 32 civilians and soldiers after an investigation into their alleged part in a U.S.-backed conspiracy to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro, the prosecutor's office said on Monday. Attorney General Tarek William Saab said they had been accused of treason and convicted for their crimes. AFP

Israel loses 24 soldiers in deadliest day of Gaza war as talks continue

Army says 21 of them were reservists slain when rocket-propelled grenade fire hit a tank and two buildings they were trying to blow up; analysts say the mounting toll of soldiers, now 221, will mount pressure on govt. about the purpose of operation

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Israel said on Tuesday 24 soldiers were killed in the biggest single-day losses since the start of its ground war in Gaza amid growing pressure on the government to find a way to end the conflict.

The heavy clashes came as a White House official was due in the region for talks aimed at securing more hostage releases, and as U.S. media reported a new Israeli proposal for a deal that would involve a two-month pause in fighting.

Twenty-four soldiers were killed on Monday, with the Army saying 21 of them were reservists slain when rocket-propelled grenade fire hit a tank and two buildings they were trying to blow up.

Biggest loss: Israeli soldiers carrying the flag-draped casket of a deceased soldier, in Haifa, on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said an investigation was launched into the "disaster" and that Israel "must learn the necessary lessons". Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said the "deaths of 24 of our fighters, our best sons... is a heavy blow".

More than 200 people attended the funeral of one of the reservists, Hadar Kapeluk, whose coffin was draped with an Israeli flag, at Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem.

Mounting pressure

An analyst said the mounting toll of soldiers killed – now 221 – since Israel launched its ground offensive in Gaza would heap pressure on the government.

"Everybody is mourning the soldiers this morning and I think people will demand clear answers about the purpose and the goal of this operation in Gaza," said Israela Oron of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

On the ground, fighting raged in Khan Yunis, the biggest city in southern Gaza, which the Army said it had "encircled".

Witnesses said powerful explosions rocked Khan Yunis, as well as Deir al-Balah in north Gaza and Rafah in the south.

UN agencies and aid groups have sounded the alarm about the growing threat of disease and famine in Gaza, where 1.7 million people are estimated to have been uprooted.

U.S., Britain launch second round of military strikes

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

The United States and Britain launched a second round of joint military strikes on Yemen's Houthis on Tuesday over their attacks on Red Sea shipping, as the Iran-backed rebels vowed to hit back.

The latest raids, heard by residents of the rebel-held capital Sanaa around midnight, hit eight Houthi targets, a joint U.S.-U.K. statement said, while the Houthis listed 18 strikes across their territory.

A senior U.S. military official said the strikes were carried out using a combination of precision-guided munitions from U.S. and British aircraft, and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

U.S. and British forces carried out a first wave of strikes against the rebel group earlier this month, and the United States launched further air raids against missiles that Washington said posed imminent threats to both civilian and military vessels.

Deadly strike: A Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4 being prepared to carry out strikes against Houthi military targets in Yemen. AP

But the Houthis have continued their attacks on shipping – just one part of a growing crisis in the West Asia linked to the Israel-Hamas war, which has raised fears of a broader war directly involving Iran.

The Houthis remained defiant, with military spokesperson Yahya Saree promising a response.

"These attacks will not go unanswered and unpunished," he wrote on X, listing 18 strikes in Sanaa, Hodeida, Taez and Al-Bayda provinces.

Pak.-Afghan border crossing reopens after talks; visa, passport not needed

Agence France-Presse
PESHAWAR

Pakistan and Afghanistan reopened a key trade crossing on Tuesday, officials on both sides said, after a row over travel papers as Islamabad cracks down on cross-border movements.

The Torkham border closure since January 12 came after Islamabad imposed tighter controls requiring drivers from both sides to have visas and passports – documents many Afghans do not have.

Ties between the two countries have increasingly frayed in recent months, with Islamabad accusing the Taliban government of failing to root out militants staging attacks in Pakistan from their soil.

Entry point: People from Afghanistan arriving at the Torkham border crossing to enter Pakistan on Tuesday. AFP

Kabul has always rejected the allegations.

A Pakistan border official, who asked not to be named, confirmed the reopening after negotiations between Islamabad and Kabul, allowing hundreds of waiting trucks to cross.

Till March 31

"It was agreed during the discussions that until March 31, Pakistani and Afghan drivers can cross the border without a visa and passport," he said.

Afghan Torkham official Abdul Jabbar Hikmat confirmed lorries were allowed to cross again on Tuesday "without the need for passports and visas".

Drug lord in Guatemala gets 808-year prison term

Agence France-Presse
GUATEMALA CITY

A court in Guatemala sentenced an accused drug lord on Monday to 808 years in prison over the massacre of 15 Nicaraguans and one Dutch citizen in 2008, a judicial source said.

The court handed down the sentence against Rigoberto Danilo Morales for taking part in the killings.

The court said Morales got 50 years for each killing and another eight years for criminal association.

Despite this long jail sentence, Guatemalan law stipulates that a prisoner can actually serve no more than 50 years in prison.

Morales, 37, was arrested in 2022 after spending 13 years on the run.

His trial started in September.

5 killed in Russian missile strikes

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian missiles targeted Ukraine's two biggest cities early on Tuesday, damaging apartment buildings and killing at least five people after Moscow shunned any deal backed by Kyiv and its Western allies to end the almost two-year war. The Russian barrage included more than 40 ballistic, cruise, anti-aircraft and guided missiles, officials said. Ukraine's Air Force said it intercepted 21 of them.

Twenty injured

The attack injured at least 20 people in four districts of Kyiv, the capital, including a 13-year-old boy, according to Mayor Vitalii Klitschko. The attacks keep Ukrainians on edge while the 1,500-km front line has barely budged.

Both sides' inability to deliver a knockout punch on the battlefield has pushed the fighting toward trench and artillery warfare.

'Oppenheimer', 'Poor Things' lead Oscar race

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Christopher Nolan's summer blockbuster "*Oppenheimer*" emerged as the top contender at the 96th Academy Award nominations where it is closely followed by Yorgos Lanthimos's "*Poor Things*" and Martin Scorsese-directed "*Killers of the Flower Moon*". Though India's official entry "*2018*" is out of the international feature film race, "*To Kill a Tiger*" secured a nomination in documentary feature category at the Academy Awards.

The 96th Academy Awards will be held on March 10 at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Executive Engineer (C), Postal Civil Division, Thiruvananthapuram invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tenders for the following work

NIT No.27/EE-TVM/23-24. Name of work: Construction of Post office building at Vazhapally West under Changanassery Division, Kerala Circle. Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,36,14,383/-(Civil portion – Rs. 2,28,93,267/- and Electrical Portion – Rs, 7,21,116/-) Earnest Money: Rs. 472288/- Period of completion: 18 months. Last date and time of submission of bid: 03.02.2024 upto 11.00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://eprocure.gov.in

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KAMALAPUR
Hosapete (Tq) (: 08394-296553 Vijayanagara (Dist)
E-mail : co_kamalapur@yahoo.com
Web site: www.kamalapuratown.mrc.gov.in

No.TMCK : 15th fin : 2023-24 Date : 17.01.2024

Tender Prakane (Through E-Portal Only)

01.Works / Goods / Services
1)DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT-12598
2)DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT-12772
3)DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT-12773
4)DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT-13220
5)DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT-12599 (ST Category)
6)DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT-12600 (SC Category)
7)DMA/2023-24/WT/WORK_INDENT-12602 (SC Category)
8)DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT-12603
9)DMA/2023-24/WS/WORK_INDENT-12604
10)DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT-12605
11)DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT-12607
12)DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT-12608
13)DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT-12610 (SC Category)
02.Works / Goods / Services Estimated Amount: **Rs.190.91 Lakhs.** 03.Contractor Eligible Detaisl: **Registered PWD Contractors.** 04.Last Date Received for Tenders: **30.01.2024 (Before 05.00 PM).** 06.Details of Tender Application fees and EMD Amount: **Through E-Procurment Protal.** 07.Technical Bid Opening date: **30.01.2024 (Before 05.00 PM).** 08.Financial Bid Opening date: **06.02.2024 (Before 05.30 PM)(Technically Qualified Contractors Participated in bid only).** 09.Please Contact Additional Information in Office hours, In Office and Telephone Number: **TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KAMALAPUR TELEPHONE NO.08394 – 296553. 10.** Details of Web and address: www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in www.kamalapuratown.mrc.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer TMC, Kamalapur
DIPR/Vijayanagar/341/KSMCA/2023-24

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No. BMICAPA/CLU-04/57/2023-24/1595 Date:23.01.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri S.Nagappa S/o Late Siddegowda and Sri H.M.Madegowda S/o Mahadevaiah Owner and GPA Holder have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining to Sy.No:129/8 Extent 0Acre-03Guntas, Sy.No:135/1 Extent 0Acre-38Guntas, Sy.No:136/1 Extent 0Acre-29Guntas, Sy.No:136/2 Extent 0Acre-26Guntas, Sy.No:136/3 Extent 0Acre-26Guntas, Sy.No:136/4 Extent 0Acre-26Guntas, Sy.No:137/1 Extent 0Acre-33Guntas, Sy.No:137/2 Extent 0Acre-24Guntas, Sy.No:137/3 Extent 0Acre-24Guntas and Sy.No:137/4 Extent 0Acre-24Guntas totally measuring 06Acre-13Guntas of Kesare Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land are developed, therein will develop sites/houses will be available to all.
2. If these lands are developed job facilities will be available to all sectors of labours.
3. If these lands are developed the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If these lands are developed, good roads civic amenity sites and parks etc., will be available for general public.
5. If these lands are developed and layout is formed thereon, it will help the workers working nearby Mysore, in obtaining residential sites/houses in the said lands.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/3225/2023-24

AUCTION NOTIFICATION
The Visakha Chinthapalli Tribal Coffee Producers MACS Ltd
Inviting the Buyers for Open Auction for Arabica Coffee Parchment and Arabica Coffee Float Cherry
Date of Auction : 05-02-2024 at 3:00 pm Venue : District Collector's Office, Paderu.

The Visakha Chinthapalli Tribal Coffee Producers MACS Ltd herewith inviting the buyers for open auction for Arabica Coffee Parchment and Arabica Coffee Float Cherry to the following quantities: **Arabica Coffee Parchment MT.149.109 Arabica Coffee Float Cherry MT.33.033**

Terms of Auction and Stock Delivery:
1. Open Auction for Coffee Parchment 149.109 MTs and Float Cherry 33.033 MTs.
2. 100% Advance Payment before loading of the Vehicle.
3. Labour and Transport cost will be borne by the Buyer only.
4. Society is not responsible for transit loss/any other loss/moisture issues.
5. Buyer lift the stock from Ex Godown Chinthapalli as per the Society Norms.
6. Taxes applicable as per the GST Act.
7. **EMD Rs.50,00,000/-** should deposit after the successful bid, the same will be adjusted against the sale proceeds.
8. Buyers check the stock at MACS, Chinthapalli before participation of auction and lift the stock irrespective of any other conditions Quality and other Parameters.
9. Entry Fees for participant is **Rs.5,000/-** per head, which is non refundable.
10. Buyer has to be lift the stock within 10-15 days after successful bidder.
11. EMD will not refundable if the successful bidder fails to lift the stock.

PROJECT OFFICER, I.T.D.A. PADERU

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement portal Only)

Bids are invited in two-cover system for the supply of following material required for BTPS. The tender details can be downloaded and shall be submitted through e- Procurement portal i.e. **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tender Notification No. & Description of Materials: **(1) KPCL/2023-24/IND0571 for Coupling gaskets. (2) KPCL/2023-24/IND0675/CALL-2 for Hydraulic Cylinders. (3) KPCL/2023-24/IND0636/CALL-3 for Belt Lifter Carrying Side. (4) KPCL/2023-24/IND0772 for 300NB Double disc valves & Spares. (5) KPCL/ 2023-24/IND0297 for Ash handling spares. (6) KPCL/2023-24/IND0773 for Flexible gear couplings. (7) KPCL/2023-24/IND0570 for Sleeve couplings and gaskets. (8) KPCL/2023-24/IND0443/CALL-2 for SS Round Bar. (9) KPCL/2023-24/IND0240/CALL-3 for Pump Spares. (10) KPCL/2023-24/IND0670/CALL-2 for Different Types of Valves.** Last date for receipt of tenders: **02.02.2024 for Sl.No. (1), 01.02.2024 for Sl.No. (2), (3), (5), (6) & (7), 31.01.2024 for Sl.No. (4), 07.02.2024 for Sl.No. (8) & (9) and 06.02.2204 for Sl.No. (10).** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Purchase), BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Ballari District,** during office hours. **Mobile No.: 09480830342,E-mail: eepurchasebtps@gmail.com**

(Public Works Department)
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

Invitation for Tender (I.F.T)
No.06/2023-24 Date: 19.01.2024

(For Road Renewal Works –As per standard Bid Document KW 4 in two cover system.)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in one and two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders **on Date: 29.01.2024 up to 04:00 pm (1)** Date of Pre-bid meeting **on Date: 24.01.2024 up to 03:00 pm** at above Office **(2)** Last date for objections-doubts and clarification **on Date: 25.01.2024 up to 03:00 pm (3)** Last Date of submission of Tender Documents **on Date: 29.01.2024 up to 04:00 pm (4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **on Date: 30.01.2024 up to 11:00 am (5)** Opening of Financial Bid: Date of Opening of Financial Bid Will be opened after approval of Technical Bid. Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:229/KSMCA/2023-24

INBRIEF

Rolls-Royce unveils ultra luxury e-super coupe at ₹7.5 crore

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd. unveiled its first, ultra-luxury, electric super coupe Spectre here on Tuesday at a starting price of ₹7.5 crore (ex-showroom). "There is a strong interest and demand for Spectre worldwide with an order bank stretching through 2024," said a senior company official. "The deliveries in India will begin by CY25. In CY24, about 20% of our overall production would be electric," he said, adding car sales in India had almost doubled in CY23.

CG Power Q3 net dips 11% on costs, declares ₹1.30 interim

CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. reported standalone net profit for the December quarter contracted 11% from the year-earlier period to ₹216 crore on rising input costs. Sales grew by 13% to ₹1,860 crore. Raw-material costs jumped to ₹1,247 crore from ₹1,112 crore, the firm said in a filing. The results for the year-earlier period included an exceptional item of ₹51 crore. The company declared an interim dividend of ₹1.30 per share to be paid by February 21.

Bharti prepays ₹8,325 crore to DoT to clear spectrum dues

Bharti Airtel, a telecommunications service provider, on Tuesday, in a communique, said it had prepaid ₹8,325 crore to the Department of Telecom (DoT) towards part prepayment of the deferred liabilities pertaining to spectrum acquired during auctions held in the year 2015 which were at an interest cost of 10%. Bharti Airtel currently has over 400 million customers in India and also has presence in 17 countries across South Asia and Africa.

'Public capex thrust to slacken in 2024-25 ahead of elections'

Government's capital expenditure growth to slow down to just 12% in 2024-25, from 37.4% in this year's Budget, says India Ratings; Centre has committed to reduce its fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26, from a target of 5.9% of GDP this year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The upcoming general elections and the government's fiscal consolidation hopes for the next two years could lead to a moderation in public capex growth plans in the upcoming Interim Budget for 2024-25.

The Centre has committed to bring down its fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP by 2025-26, from a target of 5.9% of GDP this year. India Ratings said on Tuesday that the Union government's capital expenditure growth is expected to slow down to 12% in 2024-25 from 37.4% laid down in this year's Budget.

While the rating firm expects capex growth to end up at 31.4% in 2023-24, it reckoned that fresh capex next year may slow down due to multiple factors, including the pickup in private capex in a few sectors, the forthcoming elections and the fiscal consolidation goal for 2025-26.

"Capex and fiscal consolidation path followed in the vote on account would be monitored closely, given their impact on growth and interest rates," said Dhiraj Relli, CEO at HDFC Securities, who noted that a balance will have to be struck as higher capex could postpone the fiscal consolidation journey.

"Since 1989-90, there have been eight instances where the government has reduced the fiscal deficit by over 140 basis points (bps) of GDP over two years. We, therefore, believe such a reduction in two years is possible but not easy," Devendra Kumar Pant, chief economist at India Ratings said.

Mr. Relli said the Centre was likely to stay on the fiscal course-correction glide path in the Interim Budget, while seeking to shun populist spending.

Trimming spending

Fresh capital expenditure expected to slow down due to pick-up in private capex, polls and the fiscal consolidation goal

- Centre is expected to stay on fiscal course-correction glide path in Budget, while shunning populist spending
- Since FY90, governments have pared fiscal deficit by over 140 bps of GDP across 2 years only eight times
- Capex, fiscal path are monitored closely given the impact they have on growth and interest rates

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	70,371	-1.47
US Dollar	83.15	------
Gold	63,250	------
Brent oil	80.33	------

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2896.55	-91.35
Adani Ports	1137.10	-55.90
Apollo Hosp	6153.75	31.20
Asian Paints	3054.70	-84.10
Axis Bank	1089.25	-31.75
Bajaj Auto	7095.90	0.75
Bajaj Finserv	1582.50	1.50
Bajaj Finance	7070.70	-230.60
Bharti Airtel	1158.00	34.25
BPCL	463.05	-20.05
Britannia Ind	5048.10	-118.30
Cipla	1409.00	92.75
Coal India	375.30	-23.50
Divis Lab	3615.35	-34.20
Dr Reddys Lab	5674.40	39.00
Eicher Motors	3616.70	-80.90
Grasim Ind	2049.60	-31.60
HCL Tech	1523.65	-20.35
HDFC Bank	1427.35	-51.50
HDFC Life	586.15	-21.85
Hero MotoCorp	4444.20	42.55
Hindalco	541.40	-19.65
Hind Unilever	2375.55	-93.35
ICICI Bank	1029.05	20.35
IndusInd Bank	1441.70	-93.65
Infosys	1642.15	-6.70
ITC	459.30	-9.10
JSW Steel	790.40	-17.80
Kotak Bank	1784.50	-22.30
L&T	3551.00	-83.50
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5638.50	-18.25
M&M	1595.20	-27.10
Maruti Suzuki	9860.45	-112.10
NestleIndia	2462.90	-17.05
NTPC	302.60	-5.60
ONGC	229.90	-12.15
PowerGrid Corp	237.95	0.75
Reliance Ind	2657.15	-56.15
SBI Life	1375.50	-66.70
State Bank	605.10	-26.30
Sun Pharma	1378.30	52.15
TataConsumerProduct	1145.65	-4.45
Tata Motors	800.45	-18.45
Tata Steel	130.10	-3.85
TCS	3858.25	-2.40
Tech Mahindra	1366.65	-18.95
Titan	3739.65	-45.05
UltraTech Cement	9831.00	-166.40
UPL	535.10	-17.35
Wipro	469.90	-8.05

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 23

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.95	83.27
Euro	90.29	90.64
British Pound	105.57	105.98
Japanese Yen (100)	56.12	56.34
Chinese Yuan	11.57	11.62
Swiss Franc	95.52	95.89
Singapore Dollar	61.91	62.16
Canadian Dollar	61.55	61.81
Malaysian Ringitt	17.54	17.62
Australian Dollar	54.64	54.86

Source:Indian Bank

'Pandemic lent boost to life insurance'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India's life insurance segment has been witnessing a spike in demand since the pandemic, said Mahesh Balasubramanian, MD, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company, adding the pandemic had help raise awareness about this financial product.

"The segment has been posting quantum growth, even after the pandemic," said Mr. Balasubramanian, while launching one of the company's new products on Tuesday. "We expect the industry to continue to grow in the mid teens," he added.

Mahesh Balasubramanian

Mr. Balasubramanian observed that the company held a 10% market share in Karnataka following Kotak's acquisition of Bengaluru-based ING Vysya.

Axis Bank Q3 net profit rises 3.7%, margins shrink

REUTERS
BENGALURU

India's Axis Bank reported a 3.7% rise in third-quarter profit that came in marginally above estimates, helped by higher loan growth, while interest margins contracted.

The bank reported a standalone net profit of ₹60.71 billion in the three months ended December 31. Net interest margin shrank to 4.01%, from 4.26% a year earlier and 4.11% in the prior quarter.

Sensex dips on banks, RIL, L&T; Zee tumbles

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex declined almost 1.5% on Tuesday, led by blue chips including HDFC Bank, SBI, Reliance Industries, Larsen &Toubro and Hindustan Unilever.

The Sensex fell 1,053 points, or 1.47%, to 70,370.55. While SBI slid 4.2%, Hindustan Unilever shed 3.8%, HDFC Bank lost 3.45%, L&T retreated 2.4% and RIL dropped 2.1%.

Separately, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) stock tumbled 33%

on the BSE, a day after Sony India called off a proposed merger and slapped a notice to recover $90 million as termination fee.

"The termination of the deal has led to the fall," observed Ashwin Patil, senior research analyst at LKP Securities.

Production of sugar lags behind last year's output

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Production of sugar from October 1, 2023, to January 15, 2024, stood at 149.52 lakh tonne compared with 157.87 lakh tonne during same period last season.

The Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association said in a press release 520 mills were in operation against 515 last year. With 45.73 lakh tonne of production in the 2.5 months of this sugar season (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024) in U.P. against 40.65 lakh tonne for the same period last year, only U.P is seeing better sugar production.

The production is lower this year in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat.

"However, recent weather has been favourable for the standing crop and cane commissioners of major States like Uttar Pradesh have done upward revision in sugar production estimates for 2023-2024 to the tune of 5% to 10% each," the Association said in the media release.

Tata Elxsi Q3 net rises 6% to ₹206.4 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mainstay transport, auto business grew 15.6% on deal wins, software-defined vehicle ramp up

Tata Elxsi, a Tata Group firm that provides design-led technology services, on Tuesday reported a strong third quarter driven by steady growth in transportation/automotive and healthcare segments in the global markets.

For the quarter ended December 31, the company reported ₹914.2 crore in operating revenue, a growth of 11.8% year-on-year (YoY). Its Q3, net profit grew 6% to ₹206.4 crore.

The company's mainstay, transportation/auto business grew 15.6% YoY, aided by deal wins and ramp-up of software defined vehicle (SDV) engagements while healthcare vertical grew 13% YoY, driven by new product engineering and regulatory services, according to the company.

"While we had some delays in planned ramp-ups and deal closures due to the short quarter and holidays, we are positioned well to capture growth opportunities in the continued transformation of the automotive industry and Software Defined Vehicles," said Manoj Raghavan, CEO and Managing Director, Tata Elxsi.

Hero MotoCorp banks on EVs, global expansion for the future

Lalatendu Mishra
JAIPUR

Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of scooters and motorcycles, has announced a focus on premiumisation, to expand its base globally, and introduce more models as part of a vision for the next four decades.

The company, which turned 40 on Tuesday held its future strategy event, Hero World 2024 at its R&D hub – the Centre for Innovation and Technology (CIT) in Jaipur.

At the event, the company announced its foray into the mid-weight upper premium category with the roll out of Mavrick 440, a 440cc motorcycle. Its price will be announced in February when bookings are offered. Delivery is scheduled from April.

Hero also introduced Xtreme 125R a 125cc motorbike priced at ₹95,000 in the Internal Braking System segment and ₹99,500 for the Anti-lock Braking System segment.

The company also announced it would unveil two electric two-wheelers in FY25 for the mid and mass segment. Plans include targetting door delivery companies.

"From premium motorcycles that redefine elegance to mass mobility solutions, our commitment to inclusivity is unwavering," said CEO Niranjan Gupta. "The future of mobility, for us, is a tapestry woven with threads of electrification and sustainability," he added.

"The global footprint of Hero MotoCorp today extends to nearly 50 countries, where Hero is not just a brand, but a shining example of a confident Bharat," said Pawan Munjal Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp.

(The writer was in Jaipur at the firm's invitation)

Granules Q3 net climbs 1% on flat sales

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Firm attributes its performance to reduction in prices of paracetamol across all regions

Drugmaker Granules India reported consolidated net profit for the December quarter rose 1% to ₹125.6 crore, year on year, on a less than 1% increase in revenue from operations to ₹1,155.5 crore.

"We had a steady performance this quarter as compared with the previous quarter. U.S. formulations business has done well in Q3, led by both existing and new products," CMD Krishna Prasad Chigurupati said.

A significant volume growth in North America was partially offset by price erosion, while in Europe paracetamol price erosion led to a decline in sales.

Volume decline continued in Latin America, primarily on account of inventory correction by customers in these regions, the company said. Granules is one of the largest manufacturers of paracetamol globally.

On a sequential basis, revenue declined 3%, which the company attributed primarily to reduction in prices of paracetamol across all regions. Profit increased 23% sequentially fuelled by better value addition due to better product mix and reduction in raw material prices.

PSU banks clarify on Jan. 22 operations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Public sector bank branches, including those of Central Bank of India, remained operational on Monday across India, except in U.P. and Maharashtra that had declared a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646147777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No. TSQ-1146 / TD-1

Dy. CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender of 66kV line / S/S Bus bar h/w fittings for ACSR Panther & Zebra, Earthwire fittings (7/2.24mm) and Tower Accessories as per relevant IS and PSPCL specification TSQ-1146/PSPCL/TD-I. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 24.01.2024 from 11.00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-59/24 76155/12/2630/2023/31697

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive Of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
1	City Beautification works Kazhakuttom Railway Station, Technopark, adjoining areas-Upgrading to Smart Road by providing foot path to Technopark, U G ducting conduits, Solar Street lights, CC camera surveillance to Sreekariyam Kazhakuttom via Kulathur road	2024_SCTLT_647437_1	Rs.4,13,73,066/-	02 Feb 2024

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER — TENDER NOTICE

Adv.No.91/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.281 to 283/SE-I/TTD/2023-24 Dt:22/01/2024

Name of works: (1) Construction of Sports complex at vacant land back side of Income Tax Guest House, Harerama Harekrishna Road, Vinayaka Nagar, Tirupati. Amount Rs.1000 Lakhs, Time for completion 18 months. **(2)** Improvement of KT Quarters at Tirupati, Amount Rs.1063 Lakhs, Time for completion 9 months. **(3)** Improvement of Vinayaka Nagar Quarters at Tirupati, Amount Rs.2360 lakhs, Time for completion 12 months. **NOTE:** For full details log on to the website **https://www.tirumala.org.**

Roc.No.PR4/13962/Adv.No.351/PRO/2024, Dated:23-01-2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
S.V.GOSAMRAKSHANA SHALA, TIRUPATI — e-Tender cum - Reverse Tendering Notice

NIT No.TTD-30021/(43)/1/SVGS/TPT/2024, Dt:22-01-2024

e-Tenders are invited for procurement of Pasturized Toned Milk through **"e-tender-cum-reverse tendering"** for a period of one year. Tender documents can be downloaded by login to **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** and select on current tenders and click on more and then select "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams" at department field and "S.V.Gosamrakshana Shala Dairy Farm" in the circle / Division field and click on search button. **Download Start Date 25-01-2024 and Last Date for submission of tender is 24-02-2024. For further details contact Mobile No.: 9849050646.**

Roc.No.PR4/13962/Adv.No.349/PRO/2024, Dated:23-01-2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - Tender Notice

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Kottarakara, Kollam
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_645119_1
PAC : 5,90,07,000/-, Last Date - 07.02.2024, 04.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_645507_1
PAC : 8,40,85,000/-, Last Date - 07.02.2024, 04.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_645776_1
PAC : 6,09,75,000/-, Last Date - 09.02.2024, 04.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_646322_1
PAC : 6,41,32,000/-, Last Date - 13.02.2024, 04.00pm

O/o the Exicutive Engineer, P.M.U, Electrical Circle, Kottarakara, Kollam
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_646360_1
PAC : 3,21,02,400/-, Last Date - 12.02.2024, 04.00pm
E-tender ID : 2024_KSEB_647430_1
PAC : 3,89,47,500/-, Last Date - 13.02.2024, 04.00pm

Visit www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E453/E-tender/2024

THE HINDU GROUP

ACES SPORTS QUIZ

1. In the 2023 ODI World Cup, to which team did the Indian Men's Cricket team suffer their only defeat?
2. Under the leadership of Captain Sushma Patel, the visually impaired Indian women's _____ team bagged the gold medal at the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) World Games held at Edgbaston in August 2023.
3. Who achieved the distinction of being the third Indian to defeat Magnus Carlsen by winning against him at the 2023 Qatar Masters event?

'SPORTSTAR ACES 2024 INDIA TRIUMPHS #SSaces2024

Scan the QR code, take part in the quiz and vote for your favourite stars.
Top 3 winners every day will win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday quiz:
1. ENGLAND
2. ROHAN BOPANA
3. D GUKESH

Will miss Virat, but it gives an opportunity for another player to step up: Dravid

With Rahul not keeping wickets, the head coach says the choice is between the other two glovemen named in the squad — Bharat and Jurel

Gearing up: Dravid and Jadeja share a light moment during India's practice session ahead of the first Test against England. PTI

ENGLAND IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
HYDERABAD

So K.L. Rahul will not keep wicket against England.

That isn't much of a surprise, though he had given a good account of himself behind the stumps at the World Cup at home and then the Tests in South Africa. But given the role spin is expected to play in this series of five Tests, chances of Rahul keeping his 'keeping gloves were slim; the confirmation came on Tuesday, from Indian cricket's other Rahul.

Coach Dravid said, shortly before the Indian team began its practice at the Rajiv Gandhi Cricket Stadium ahead of the first Test starting on Thursday, that the choice was between the other two 'keepers named in the squad – K.S. Bharat and Dhruv Jurel.

"I think we were quite clear about that with the selection itself," Dravid said. "We had picked two other wicketkeepers. Obviously Rahul did a fantastic job for us in South Africa and really played a big part in helping us draw that series. But considering there are five Test matches and playing in these conditions, we felt we would go with another keeping option and considering the weather as well. So it is a toss-up between the two other keepers that we have."

One of the main talking points about the series is the absence of the mainstay of Indian batting, Virat Kohli, who isn't available for the first two Tests because of personal reasons. "Any team will miss the quality of a player like Virat, and he is a phenomenal player, and his record speaks for itself," Dravid said.

"Off the field, his presence is a huge boost for the team. But having said that, it gives another opportunity for another player to step up and put in some performances."

The bigger talking point has been the pitches that are tipped to turn. "It is a hard one to say, so we will just have a look once it starts and figure it out," he said. "It looks a good one and may spin a little bit; how quickly and fast I am not sure, but it may spin a little bit as the game goes on."

Dravid indicated that he wasn't bothered by Shubman Gill's low scores in recent Tests. "Gill is a fine player and is starting out his journey as a cricketer, and sometimes we forget that it takes a bit of time," he said.

"He has done well in his early tours, especially in Australia, and to be fair, a lot of young players are playing on challenging wickets, and it's quite hard at times, but Gill is doing all the right things and is putting in the effort.

"He got a couple of nice hundreds for us last season – in Bangladesh and Ahmedabad – and he is on the right track."

No good coming here thinking the pitches will do the work, says Wood

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

In an IPL match at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium some eight months ago, Mark Wood was breathing fire. In a remarkable spell of fast bowling, the England quick claimed five for 14 for Lucknow Super Giants against Delhi Capitals.

Wood knows things could well be different in the Test series against India. The focus is more on spin and the wickets that could be encouraging it.

But he feels it would be wrong to assume the pitch would do everything. "It is no good coming here and just rolling over and thinking the pitches will do the work, or it is going to be tough because the pitches are not what we are used to," he said. "We have to find a way. That is what we will try and do in the game. We will adapt. We have a captain that always wants to take the game forward and isn't going to sit back. It should be a fun and intense series."

Raring to go: Wood sweats it out at a nets session ahead of the first Test at Hyderabad. GETTY IMAGES

Wood wants England to create history in India. "We know the challenges here," he said. "India very rarely lose at home. I think it is almost like a bit of a free hit for us, we can come in here and give it a go and try something a bit different."

He thinks India has their bases covered. "They have good seam bowlers and spinners, top-quality batsmen," he said.

"But that is the challenge. We made history in Pakistan recently; we were the first team to win every match there. This is another chance to do something historic, and try and beat India in their own conditions."

Wood said he felt great being part of the English cricket set-up under coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes. "McCullum and Stokes allow us freedom," he said.

The Indians practise in all earnestness

P.K. Ajith Kumar
HYDERABAD

There they were, the three of them – Mohammed Siraj, R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja – bowling one after another. It was an interesting sight.

The seam of Siraj, the off-spin of Ashwin and the left-arm spin of Jadeja: a batter could not have hoped for better preparation, especially ahead of a Test series as prestigious as the one against England. The likes of Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill were facing those quality bowlers in all earnestness at the nets of the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday .

Bashir returns home due to visa issue

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

England's uncapped spinner Shoaib Bashir has returned home and will thus miss the first Test starting here on Thursday. The 20-year-old, who is of Pakistani origin, was scheduled to travel to India from Abu Dhabi, but his visa had not been granted in time.

It is learnt that his visa has now been approved but he needs to get it stamped in his passport by the Indian High Commission in the UK. Captain Ben Stokes termed the incident frustrating, as the squad was announced in December.

WPL 2024 schedule

The second edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL) will start at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Feb. 23. Matches will be held in Bengaluru (Feb. 23 to March 4) and Delhi (March 5 to 17) with the Arun Jaitley Stadium hosting the Eliminator and Final on March 15 and 17 respectively

Feb. 23	Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals
Feb. 24	Royal Challengers Bangalore vs UP Warriorz
Feb. 25	Gujarat Giants vs Mumbai Indians
Feb. 26	UP Warriorz vs Delhi Capitals
Feb. 27	Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Gujarat Giants
Feb. 28	Mumbai Indians vs UP Warriorz
Feb. 29	Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Delhi Capitals
March 1	UP Warriorz vs Gujarat Giants
March 2	Royal Challengers Bangalore vs Mumbai Indians
March 3	Gujarat Giants vs Delhi Capitals
March 4	UP Warriorz vs Royal Challengers Bangalore
March 5	Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians
March 6	Gujarat Giants vs Royal Challengers Bangalore
March 7	UP Warriorz vs Mumbai Indians
March 8	Delhi Capitals vs UP Warriorz
March 9	Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Giants
March 10	Delhi Capitals vs Royal Challengers Bangalore
March 11	Gujarat Giants vs UP Warriorz
March 12	Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bangalore
March 13	Delhi Capitals vs Gujarat Giants
March 15	Eliminator
March 17	**Final**

Nominees for *Sportstar* of the Year (Male) award

SPORTSTAR ACES 2024 INDIA TRIUMPHS

Sports Bureau

Indian sports had many moments to cherish in 2023. It is time to celebrate these landmark moments and achievements at the *Sportstar* ACES Awards. Here are the nominees for the Sportstar of the Year (Male).

Neeraj Chopra, the World No. 1 in men's javelin throw, began the year by winning Diamond League events in Doha [88.67m] and Lausanne [87.66]. He became the first Indian to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships with an 88.17m effort. He then defended his Asian Games gold with a season-best throw of 88.88m in Hangzhou.

Virat Kohli had a dream World Cup outing with an all-time-high tournament aggregate of 765 runs, including nine 50-plus scores in 11 innings and three hundreds. He also notched up a record 50th ODI ton, the most by any player in this format, going past Sachin Tendulkar's tally of 49. During the ODI Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, his unbeaten 233-run partnership with K.L. Rahul for the third wicket was the highest stand for any wicket in the tournament's history.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won India's first ever badminton gold medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou. The two became the first Indian pair to win gold at the Badminton Asia Championship, the country's first success at the tournament in close to six decades. They also won their first Swiss Open title last year. The pair rose to number 1 in the BWF Men's Doubles Rankings in October.

At 18, **R. Praggnanandhaa** became the youngest Chess World Cup finalist ever, finishing second best to Magnus Carlsen. The teenager will now play in the Candidates tournament in 2024, making him the third youngest player to qualify. He also won the Asian Games team silver and registered a peak rating of 2740-plus and added yet another feather to his cap by defeating 2800-rated Grandmaster Ding Liren for the first time in a classical game at the Tata Steel Chess Masters.

Sumit Antil is the world record holder in men's javelin (F64). The reigning Paralympics champion clinched the gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games with a world record effort of 73.29m. The 25-year-old broke his own mark of 70.83m, which he had achieved while winning gold at the World Para Athletics Championships in Paris earlier this year.

The voting lines for the 2034 Aces Awards will close on January 31.

Djokovic fights heat and Fritz, Sabalenka breezes through to make semifinals in title defence

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Top seed Novak Djokovic battled past Taylor Fritz into an 11th Australian Open semifinal and a record-extending 48th at Grand Slams on Tuesday, but a rampant Aryna Sabalenka had a much easier ride.

The Serbian superstar came through a probing test on Rod Laver Arena against the 12th-seeded American 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 to keep his bid for an unprecedented 25th major crown on track.

Djokovic almost always gets the evening slot on centre court, but was bumped to the afternoon on a day on which temperatures soared to 32 degrees Celsius and the World No. 1 admitted it was tough going.

"Physically and emotionally very draining," he said after the three hour and 45 minute epic, adding that he "suffered a lot" in the first two sets.

Tough going: Djokovic was bumped to the afternoon slot on a day when temperatures soared to 32 degree Celsius. AP

"He was serving well, staying close to the line and kind of suffocating me from the back of the court," he said. "I think I upped my game probably midway through the third set all the way to the end."

The 36-year-old will face Italian fourth seed Jannik Sinner next. Sinner swept past Andrey Rublev in straight sets in the early hours of Wednesday to reach his first semifinal.

The Italian fourth seed was rock solid on serve throughout the encounter on Rod Laver Arena, winning 6-4, 7-6(5), 6-3 against the Russian fifth seed.

In contrast to his long slog, fellow defending champion Sabalenka was off court in just 71 minutes, crushing ninth seed Barbora Krejcikova 6-2, 6-3 with minimum fuss.

She will face fourth seed Coco Gauff next in a replay of last year's US Open final that the American teenager won in three sets.

On current form, Gauff will be the underdog after taking more than three hours to down unseeded Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk 7-6(6), 6-7(3), 6-2 in a scrappy affair.

Sabalenka had won all seven of her previous Grand Slam quarter-finals, and wasted little time laying down the law against Krejcikova, the 2021 French Open champion.

She broke three times in each set, with her booming groundstrokes unstoppable.

"I played really great tennis, I just hope I can keep playing this way," said the 25-year-old Sabalenka.

"I mean, it's all because of the atmosphere. I have the best support here."

Gauff admitted she was below par against Kostyuk, giving herself only a 'C' rating. "Hopefully got the bad match out of the way and I can play even better," she said.

"Really proud of the fight I showed today," added the American, who had never progressed beyond the fourth round at Melbourne Park in four previous attempts.

QUARTERFINAL RESULTS

Men: 1-Djokovic (Srb) bt 12-Fritz (USA) 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; 4-Sinner (Ita) bt 5-Rublev (Rus) 6-4, 7-6(5), 6-3.
Women: 4-Gauff (USA) bt Kostyuk (Ukr) 7-6(6), 6-7(3), 6-2; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 9-Krejcikova (Cze) 6-2, 6-3.

INBRIEF

U Mumba and Puneri Paltan share honours in PKL

U Mumba and Puneri Paltan played out a thrilling 32-32 tie in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match in Hyderabad on Tuesday. U Mumba's Guman Singh had 15 raid points, while Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh notched 6 tackle points.

Rohit named skipper of ICC ODI Team of the Year

Rohit Sharma was on Tuesday named captain of the ICC ODI Team of the Year, which featured five other Indians including star batter Virat Kohli and the pace duo of Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj. The team mostly included the World Cup finalists – India (runner-up) and Australia (winner) – besides players from semifinalists New Zealand and South Africa. The ODI team's top order includes openers Rohit and Shubman Gill. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and off-spinner R. Ashwin were the two Indians featuring in the Test Team of the Year, with Australian pacer Pat Cummins as the captain.

The ODI team: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Travis Head, Virat Kohli, Daryl Mitchell, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Marco Jansen, Adam Zampa, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Shami (India).
The Test team: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Usman Khawaja, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, Travis Head, Ravindra Jadeja, Alex Carey (wk), R. Ashwin and Mitchell Starc and Stuart Broad.

Karun Nair returns to Notts. for 2024 season

India batter Karun Nair will be heading back to Northamptonshire for the upcoming County Championship after a successful outing with the English club last season. The 32-year-old will be featuring in seven county games for the side. He played for the side last season in the final three matches of Division 1.

Satwik-Chirag pair regains the top ranking

Riding on a stellar show in the last two weeks, India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday reclaimed the top spot in the BWF men's doubles rankings. The Asian Games champions reached the World No. 1 ranking for a second time after successive runner-up finishes in the Malaysia Open super 1000 and India Open Super 750 badminton tournaments. The Indian duo had achieved its numero uno status for the first time after claiming the gold medal at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last year. Among other Indians, H.S. Prannoy moved a place to reach world No. 8, while Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and Priyanshu Rajawat stayed at 19th, 25th and 30th spots respectively.

Genius Global emerges u-18 girls throwball champion

Genius Global School defeated Narayana E-Techno School (JP Nagar) 25-20 in the girls' under-18 final to emerge the throwball champion of the SFA Championships in Bengaluru. In the under-14 boys' football quarterfinal, Greenwood High blanked Delhi PS (East) 'A' 4-0.

Parikrma beats DYES in BDFA 'A' Division football league.

Parikrma FC took out DYES 4-1 in the BDFA 'A' Division football league in Bengaluru.

The results: Parikrma 4 (Vishal Kumar 52, 80, L. Pamei 80, Samuel Gogi 80) bt DYES 1 (S.A. Chandan 29); Jawahar Union 1 (Karthick 75) bt Income Tax 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 CWC: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
Australian Open: Afternoon session, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. (Thursday)

India's limp AFC Asian Cup campaign ends with a narrow loss to Syria

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's astute presence ensured the match remained level for the most part of the game

FOOTBALL

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

India finished its AFC Asian Cup 2023 campaign on a forgettable note with a 0-1 loss to Syria in its third and final group stage match at the Al Bayt Stadium on Tuesday.

Syria's 'super sub' Omar Khrbin scored the winner for Hector Cuper's side as the Blue Tigers bowed out of the competition with three consecutive losses and no points to their name.

India had started the game looking for an early break, with Mahesh Singh Naorem coming close to scoring in the fourth minute, only to see it go wide after a deflection.

Dejected lot: Indian players acknowledge their supporters after the game against Syria. AFP

Syria, on the other hand, was seen practising plenty of long and diagonal balls in its final warm-up which was reflected in its play, using a 4-4-2 shape.

It bombarded India with shots continuously but Gurpreet Singh Sandhu's astute presence ensured the match remained a level-playing field for the most part of the game.

Hector Cuper's side got its first chance from a corner in the seventh minute. Pablo Sabbag beat Manvir Singh to Jalil Elias' corner but his header was pushed away by the Bengaluru FC goalkeeper.

In the 19th minute, Lalengmawia Ralte lost the ball to a marauding Ibrahim Hesar, who then shot from a distance, forcing another save by Gurpreet.

Two chances

India had two more chances to score and both had captain Sunil Chhetri taking them. While the first - a header from a floating cross by Mahesh - was steered wide of goal, the second, the last shot of the first half, flew off-target.

Minutes into the second half, India lost the heart of its defence as Sandesh Jhingan limped off the field to be replaced by Nikhil Poojary.

Cuper looked to change his strategy after the restart. Syria had three shots on target in the first half and two of them were from outside the box. In the second half, it started playing more ground passes.

And with Jhingan missing in the back-line, the breakthrough eventually arrived in the 76th minute.

Lalengmawia lost the ball to Elias in the midfield, who marched up the pitch and passed to Alaa Aldin Yasin Dali, who then got the ball to Khrbin. Khrbin played a one-two with Hesar and then beat Rahul Bheke to find the bottom-left corner.

The results: Group B: Syria 1 (Khrbin 76) bt India 0, Australia 1 (Boyle 45+1-pen) drew with Uzbekistan 1 (Turgunbaev 78).

Sharath goes down fighting to Dongsoo

WTT STAR CONTENDER

Jonathan Selvaraj
MAPUSA

A. Sharath Kamal failed to convert two match points before eventually losing 11-6, 12-10, 4-11, 15-17, 3-11 to South Korea's Kang Dongsoo in the qualifying round of the WTT Star Contender Goa 2024 at the Peddem Indoor Stadium on Tuesday. Sharath, who featured in the main draw in the 2023 edition and who at No. 99 is the third highest ranked Indian men's singles player in the tournament, won his first two games against Dongsoo, ranked 142, and held match-points at 11-10 and 12-11 in the fourth game but failed to put away both opportunities.

Dongsoo eventually earned game points of his own before converting on his fourth attempt and romped home in a lopsided fifth game.

Earlier, in mixed doubles, Sreeja Akula and Snehit Suravajulla, who had only practised together for 15 minutes, beat World No. 27 Yew En Koen Pang and Xin Ru Wong of Singapore 11-9, 13-11, 7-11, 11-8.

They will now meet fellow Indians Manush Shah and Diya Chitale, who put it across Singapore's Izaac Quek and Zhou Jingyi 11-4, 11-7, 11-6, for a place in the main draw.

Other results:
Men's singles: Mehdi Bouloussa (Alg) bt Sanil Shetty 14-12, 11-9, 11-13, 7-11, 11-6; Manav Thakkar bt Anshuman Agarwal 11-7, 11-4, 11-4.
Women's singles: Ayhika Mukherjee bt Sayali Wani 11-9, 11-2, 12-10.
Doubles: Filippa Bergand & Christina Kallberg (Swe) bt Naina & Poymantee Baisya 7-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-9.

Anupriya rewrites the shot put record

KHELO GAMES

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

V.S. Anupriya of Kerala created a new meet record in the girls' shot put, heaving the iron ball to a distance of 17.22m in the sixth Khelo India Youth Games here on Tuesday. The previous record was held by Vidhi (17.07m, 2023).

Tavneet Singh Mudra of Madhya Pradesh and R. Pooja Arthi of Tamil Nadu bagged the boys' and girls' singles squash titles.

Triumphant: Anupriya heaved the iron ball to a record distance. *Right:* Tavneet and Pooja, winners of the boys' and girls' squash titles. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM AND M. VEDHAN

The results: Athletics: Boys: 110m hurdles: 1. Vishnu (TN) 13.79; 2. Sandip Gond (Mah); 3. K. Kiran (Ker); **400m:** 1. M. Sharan (TN) 48.42; 2. N. Dhruva Balal (Ker); 3. Shaik Azaruddin (TS); **pole vault:** 1. Arya Dev (UP) 4.40m; 2. Aman Singh (MP); 3. S. Kavinraja (TN); **long jump:** 1. Mohd. Shazid (Har) 7.34m; 2. Aarya Kandakumar (Mah); 3. Md. Tausif (UP); **discus:** 1. Devansh Jagga (Pun) 56.50m; 2. Ritik (Chd); 3. K.C. Servan (Ker).

Girls: 100m hurdles: 1. Aliza Mulla (Mah) 14.40s; 2. Antreesa Mathew 14.48; 3. Aerrolla Pranathi (TS); **400m:** 1. Roshani Yadav (UP) 56.40; 2. Reetheeshree (Kar); 3. Tahura Khatun (WB); **shot put:** 1. V.S. Anupriya (Ker) 17.22 (NMR, OR: Vidhi, Bhopal, 17.07, 2023); 2. Gurleen Kumar (Pun); 3. Tamanna (Bho); **long jump:** 1. Ramani Kumkum Bharate (Guj); 2. Janice Tressa (Ker); 3. Muskan (Har).

Cycling: Boys: 3km: 1. Kheta Ram Chiga (Raj) 3:50.195; 2. Prahalad Kumar (Bih); 3. Aashirwad Saxena (TS); **Sprint:** 1. Vedant Jitendra Jadhav (Mah) 0:11.535; 2. Atharva Ashok Patil (Ker); 3. Vedant Amit Kumar Tajane (Mah); **Scratch: 10km:** 1. Aashirwad 14:40.132; 2. Kummara Suresh Babu (AP); 3. Ssakshat Patra (Odi) 14:40.253.

Girls: 2km: 1. Individual pursuit: 1. J.P. Dhanyadha (TN) 2:52.333; 2. Shiya Lalwani (Mah); 3. Gargi Bishnoi (Raj); **Sprint:** 1. Vimla Machra (Raj) 0:14.099; 2. J. Srimathi (TN); 3. Heisnam Premika Chanu (Man); **10km: Scratch:** 1. R. Tamilarasi (TN) 10:10.625; 2. Shiya Lalwani (Mah); 3. J.P. Dhanyadha (TN) 10:10.758.

In Coimbatore: Basketball: Boys: Group-A: MP bt Mizoram 88-76; **Group-B:** Karnataka bt Chandigarh 88-84; **Girls: Group-A:** TN bt Maharashtra 72-67; **Group-B:** MP bt UP 64-39.

Shastri and Engineer honoured for their Lifetime Achievement

BCCI AWARDS

ANI
HYDERABAD

Former India cricketers Ravi Shastri and Farokh Engineer were awarded the prestigious Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award on Tuesday during the BCCI's 'Naman' Awards.

Shastri and Engineer. PTI

The BCCI Awards 2024 winners' list:
Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award: Men: Farokh Engineer, Ravi Shastri.
Polly Umrigar Award: Best International Cricketer: Men: Mohammad Shami (2019-20), R. Ashwin (2020-21), Jasprit Bumrah (2021-22), Shubman Gill (2022-23).
Best International Cricketer: Women: Deepti Sharma (2019-20, 2022-23), Smriti Mandhana (2020-21, 2021-22).
Best International Debut: Men: Mayank Agarwal (2019-20), Axar Patel (2020-21), Shreyas Iyer (2021-22), Yashaswi Jaiswal (2022-23).
Best International Debut: Women: Priya Punia (2019-20), Shafali Verma (2020-21), Sabbhineni Meghana (2021-22), Amanjot Kaur (2022-23).
Dilip Sardesai Award: Most runs in Test cricket: Yashasvi Jaiswal (2022-23).
Dilip Sardesai Award: Highest wickets in Test cricket: R. Ashwin (2022-23).
Highest run-getter in ODIs: Women: Punam Raut (2019-20), Mithali Raj (2020-21), Harmanpreet Kaur (2021-22), Jemimah Rodrigues (2022-23).
Highest wicket-taker in ODIs: Women: Deepti Sharma (2019-20, 2022-23), Jhulan Goswami (2020-21), Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2021-22), Devika Vaidya (2022-23).
Best Umpire in domestic cricket: A. Padmanabhan (2019-20), Vrinda Rathi (2020-21), Jayaraman Madangopal (2021-22), Rohan Pandit (2022-23).
Best performance in BCCI domestic tournaments: Mumbai (2019-20), Madhya Pradesh (2021-22), Saurashtra (2022-23).
Lala Amarnath Award: Best all-rounder in Ranji Trophy: M.B. Murasingh (2019-20), Shams Mulani (2021-22), Saransh Jain (2022-23).
Lala Amarnath Award: Best all-rounder in Domestic Limited Overs: B. Aparajith (2019-20), R.R. Dhawan (2020-21, 2021-22), Riyan Parag (2022-23).
Madhavrao Scindia Award: highest run-getter in Ranji Trophy: Rahul Dalal (2019-20), Sarfaraz Khan (2021-22), Mayank Agarwal (2022-23).
Madhavrao Scindia Award: Highest wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy: Jaydev Unadkat (2019-20), Shams Mulani (2021-22), Jalaj Saxena (2022-23).

India's home record is formidable – Bazball is England's best chance

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Ninety years ago, when England first toured India for a Test series, E.H.D. Sewell, player-turned-reporter, wrote in an Indian newspaper: "If compelled to bet, my rupee would be on India. But what a cheerful loser I should be!"

Writers tend to hedge their bets. Had Sewell been writing today, he might have said much the same thing, but perhaps with greater conviction in the first half of that prediction.

In recent years India haven't done too well when they have gone into a series or a tournament as the favourites. Most recently, there was the World Cup; earlier, following a dramatic victory in Australia, they began well in England but were held to a 2-2 draw in a Test series interrupted by Covid. But a home series is different. They haven't lost one in a decade while winning 36 of 46 Tests played in that period.

India will cross a threshold if things go their way over the next six weeks or so. If they win by a margin of four, they will have more victories than defeats in their Test history. They now have 177 losses to 174 wins.

The Sachin Tendulkar generation began the transformation which saw the team win more Tests this century (113 wins to 68 losses) than in the last (61 wins, 109 losses). Sachin himself was in 72 winning teams.

Statistics apart, this is about two philosophies facing off. England coach Brendon McCullum might not like the term 'Bazball', but it is here to stay.

Under McCullum and skipper Ben Stokes England have been successful playing a brand of attacking, entertaining cricket that has brought the crowds back into the stadiums while also earning them 13 wins in 18 Tests. India, keener on winning than on shaping a method, know that victory will dissolve all shortcomings and is a bulwark against criticism.

Some older England players, including Joe Root, one of their greatest batters ever, have adapted well. The new Root, switch-hitting medium pacers for six, would have given his earlier self apoplexy. Only one of their last 18 Tests has been drawn, and only six of India's last 42. That both teams are allergic to draws should make for an interesting series.

Will Bazball work in India? Theoretically, there is no reason why it shouldn't, but in practical terms, there are two reasons.

One of them is Ravichandran Ashwin and the other Ravindra Jadeja. To be able to do to them what has been done to some medium pacers (including Jasprit Bumrah in the series in England) requires sound technique rather than quick reflexes.

It will all depend on how much the England batters allow these two Indian spinners to take up space in their heads. England need to bat long and positively to put pressure on India. It is their best chance.

Their best batter among the Bazball generation, one who was born into the new system, Harry Brook will be missing initially, and may miss out altogether. He had to return home for personal reasons.

As an aside, rather than respect his wishes for privacy, he has been trolled mercilessly by a small segment of the Indian fans. When did decency and compassion disappear from our response to human situations?

It is not just embarrassing, it is sickening. Kohli will be missing the first two Tests too; luckily, he hasn't been accused of running way.

The last time India lost a series at home was a decade ago when England's spinners Graeme Swan and Monty Panesar outbowled their counterparts, with Ashwin giving away 52 runs for each of his 14 wickets. Since then England lost a series here in 2021.

Indian fans - the genuine ones, not the troll army - will be hoping that England do not jettison Bazball. They have their problems, from getting the team balance right to dealing with the Indian spinners.

In a five-Test series, they will be looking to impose themselves on the proceedings from the start. To give up Bazball would be an admission that all the talk around it is just so much talk.

India, even without Kohli, start favourites. They played through most of last century seeking moral victories. Rohit Sharma's men, however, aren't so easily satisfied.